

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN



ANNUAL REPORT 2018





Part-I: Annual Report

**Part-II: Post-Election Review
Report on General
Elections-2018**



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FOREWORD

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) is a constitutional body charged with the mandate to conduct free and fair elections for the office of the President, Senate, National and Provincial Assemblies, and local governments. Among these tasks, conduct of general elections for the national and provincial assemblies is perhaps the most challenging in view of its size, required resources and the fact that these elections must be held on a single day across the country. In 2018, the Commission not only achieved the target of free, fair and transparent general elections but also held elections for the office of the President, Senate and bye-elections, which have been widely appreciated.

It was a mammoth task to prepare for the general elections despite short span of time between enactment of the Elections Act 2017 and conduct of elections. The Commission took up the challenge and its officers worked day and night to formulate rules, adjust its systems and procedures, review and modify relevant election material in accordance with the new legal requirements. In pursuance of 24th Constitutional Amendment enacted in December 2017, the Commission carried out fresh delimitation of constituencies in extremely limited time. Nevertheless, the Commission met all these challenges, disposed of 1280 representations in 25 working days and ensured the conduct of general elections on time.

The Commission always remains committed to further improving its institutional and election management capacity. The Commission carried out Post-Election Review as required under section 14 of the Elections Act 2017, which involved stakeholder consultations in multiple districts across all Provinces and the Federal Capital. This report contains major findings of the Post-Election Review, which will facilitate the government and legislative bodies in further improving the legal and institutional framework for elections. The Commission will also use the feedback to review Election Rules and develop a strategic plan for next five years. The Commission has also constituted a “Legal Framework Committee” to review the Elections Act 2017 in the light of the experience of General Elections-2018 and to recommend amendments in the Elections Act 2017.

I must acknowledge the commendable role of the Parliament in terms of providing a comprehensive legal framework in the form of the Elections Act, 2017, which adequately empowers the Commission to deliver in a free and fair

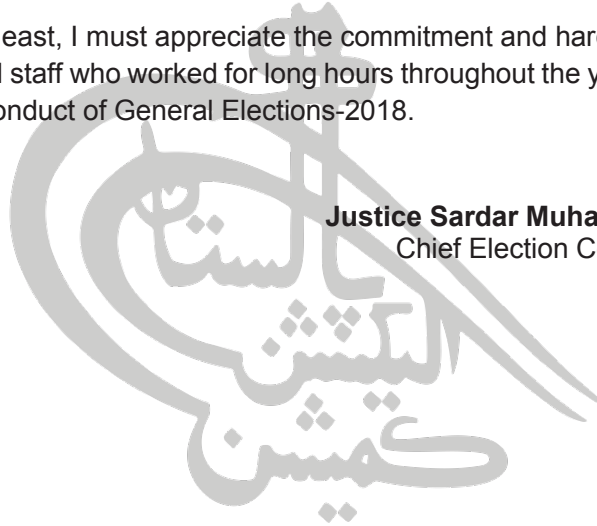
manner. I would also like to appreciate the Federal and provincial governments, particularly education departments, district administration, civil and armed forces and other law enforcement agencies for their cooperation in election operations, especially in terms of security and logistical arrangements.

I am thankful to the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the High Courts, which not only cooperated in the engagement of judicial officers as District Returning Officers and Returning Officers but also facilitated timely disposal of election related petitions prior to the General Elections-2018.

I would appreciate the role of media and civil society organizations during conduct of elections as well. I would also like to extend appreciation to the UNDP and DAI-Tabeer, who served as development partners and provided valuable technical assistance in multiple areas including voter registration, training of election and polling staff and results management system.

Last but not the least, I must appreciate the commitment and hard work of the ECP officers and staff who worked for long hours throughout the year ensuring timely and fair conduct of General Elections-2018.

Justice Sardar Muhammad Raza
Chief Election Commissioner
March 2019



PREFACE

By all means, 2018 is signified as the year of elections. While all kinds of scenarios were being painted, the ECP remained steadfast in upholding the writ of the Constitution. General Elections were conducted on 25th July, 2018 prior to which elections for the Senate had been held on 3rd March, 2018. The presidential election took place on 4th September, 2018. In addition, 47 bye-elections were also held. The present report along with the Post-Election Review will give the reader an insight into how an electoral cycle works. The report in hand contains numerous activities undertaken for the first time ever which will be dilated upon in the proceeding pages. Above all, this report bears testimony to third successive democratic transition, a crowning achievement not only for the ECP, but for all national, provincial and local institutions.

The 18th Constitutional amendment provided for a permanent Election Commission and accordingly the Commission comprising retired judges was constituted in June, 2011 for a period of five years. After the expiry of term of first permanent Commission, the 22nd Constitutional amendment was made on 9th June, 2016 which for the first time caters for an inclusive Election Commission by providing that the Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner and four members, one from each Province.

The Commission took multiple decisions in the light of “General Elections-2013 Inquiry Commission” report with a view to improve its institutional capabilities in four major areas, i.e.: Planning, Training, Coordination and Monitoring.

A “National Coordination Committee” was constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Election Commissioner for ensuring that there were no ambiguities in the electoral laws/policies and the Commission was well-acquainted with ground realities and requirements thereof.

A “Planning Committee” was set-up under the chairmanship of Secretary ECP to prepare strategy for conduct of General Elections-2018 in terms of human and financial resources; work out timelines for every activity necessary for holding general elections; work out implementation mechanism for Electoral Reforms, which was already in process in the Parliament; work out a logistic plan including the requirement for printing presses, storage spaces, office accommodation and transport, etc.; regularly review the training plan for the polling staff; and keep all other factors in view with reference to general elections. A “Monitoring wing” was also created at the ECP Secretariat under

the Director General (Administration) to monitor pre-poll, poll day and post poll activities.

The National Coordination Committee in its meeting in February, 2016 approved a roadmap for implementation of various goals and objectives contained in ECP's Second Five-Year Strategic Plan 2014–2018 along with other issues such as financial and administrative autonomy of the Commission, upgradation of Law wing, decentralization of financial powers to PECs, preparation for conduct of General Elections-2018, voter education plan and deployment and operationalization of Computerized Electoral Rolls System (CERS).

After its constitution, the Planning Committee held 15 meetings to discuss quality improvement and procurement of election material, printing of ballot papers, budget position, data bank of polling staff, verification of polling stations and provision of civic amenities, revision of electoral rolls, GIS-based polling scheme, use of RMS and RTS, pilot testing of EVM/BVM, preparation of training manuals and handbooks for District Returning Officers (DROs)/Returning Officers (ROs)/Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), Presiding Officers and other Polling Staff, Training Plan, progress on delimitation of constituencies, establishment of strong rooms, upgradation of office accommodations of field offices, establishment of Federal Election Academy, activities of Monitoring wing, upgradation of operational vehicles and gender mainstreaming and decreasing gap between male and female voters in the electoral rolls etc. During meetings of the Planning Committee, progress on implementation of various decisions taken in preceding meetings was continuously reviewed and policy guidelines were given to the offices for timely completion of the assigned tasks to hold general elections in time.

The decisions of the Commission were implemented and resulted in attainment of achievements of epic importance, a gist whereof is as under:

Framing of the Election Rules 2017: In compliance with the Elections Act 2017, the Commission framed the Election Rules 2017. For the first time, the Rules covered delimitation of constituencies of Assemblies and local governments (Chapter III); election expenses and statements of assets and liabilities (Chapter VIII); election disputes (Chapter IX); offences, penalties and procedures (Chapter X); conduct of elections to the local governments (Chapter XIII); caretaker government (Chapter XIV) and monitoring of election campaign (Rule 170).

Establishment of new wings at ECP Secretariat: Continuing its efforts to strengthen its institutional framework, the Commission established a Gender wing,

which further formulated a Gender and Disability Working Group to work towards enhancing electoral participation of women, minority and marginalized groups. A Monitoring wing was also established to monitor implementation of law, rules, codes of conduct and directives. Similarly, Electoral Rolls, Political Finance and Protocol wings were also institutionalized. The Commission also strengthened its Training wing to design and implement training plan including training material. Most importantly, the idea of a Federal Election Academy was realized.

- (i) **Delimitation of constituencies:** The Parliament passed the 24th Amendment to the Constitution on 24th December, 2017 which necessitated the delimitation of constituencies based on the provisional results of the 6th National Population Census. Despite the short timeframe, the Commission constituted delimitation committees and successfully completed delimitation of constituencies from 15th January to 3rd May 2018 which itself is a huge achievement.
- (ii) **Improved accuracy and 23% increase in registered voters** from 86.18 million in General Elections-2013 to 105.95 million in General Elections-2018. The gap between male and female voters was slightly reduced. A total of 19.7 million voters, 10.6 million men and 9.1 million women, were added to the electoral rolls. During revisions, the electoral rolls were cleaned of deceased voters and other ineligible voters.
- (iii) **Increased number of polling stations** to 85,090 with 244,687 polling booths for General Elections-2018. This increase was in compliance with legal requirement of having a polling station within 1-km radius and to accommodate increased number of registered voters.
- (iv) **Gender mainstreaming and inclusion:** The Commission took initiatives for mainstreaming women, persons with disabilities, minorities and other marginalized groups to make electoral processes all inclusive. A comprehensive campaign was launched for issuance of women NICs in collaboration with NADRA in 103 districts. The Commission also ensured compliance of 5% party tickets for women candidates which resulted in higher number of women candidates. Gender disaggregated data was collected at the polling stations to determine women voters' turn out.
- (v) **Monitoring teams for effective campaign monitoring:** The Commission formed 592 monitoring teams at district level and appointed Deputy Commissioners as District Monitoring Officers. The monitoring teams monitored election campaign and reported violations by the

candidate or a political party of any provision of the Act, Rules or the Code of Conduct issued by the Commission, to DMO for taking action.

- (vi) **Training of election officials:** Duration for the trainings of Presiding Officers and Senior Assistant Presiding Officers was increased from one day to two days. Similarly, honorarium of polling staff was also increased. The Commission prepared training modules, reviewed all training materials and publications as well as improved training methodology. For the first time all Lead Trainers were ECP officers. Master Trainers were selected from government organizations based on previous experience.
- (vii) **Complaints Management Cell** established at the ECP Secretariat to effectively resolve and respond to poll day complaints in real time.
- (viii) **Computerized Electoral Rolls System (CERS)** was operationalized at all provincial and district offices to carry out data entry for swift updating/management of electoral rolls. It also enabled DECs/ROs to register new NIC holders as voters in a timely manner, the data of whom is being received from NADRA. Operationalization and deployment of CERS enabled the Commission to achieve Goal 6 of its Strategic Plan 2014–2018.
- (ix) **Result Management System (RMS)** software was upgraded and implemented successfully at 849 RO offices for compilation, tabulation, consolidation and transmission of results. It was also used in 22 bye-elections prior to General Elections-2018.
- (x) **CCTV cameras** were got installed in 17,007 highly sensitive polling stations to record poll proceedings, counting of vote process and preparation of results by the Presiding Officers.
- (xi) **Better security arrangements** were made for the conduct of General Elections-2018 by deployment of armed/civil armed forces inside and outside all polling stations which resulted in orderly conduct of polling, polling staff felt more secure and voters exercised their right of vote in a peaceful environment.
- (xii) **Introduction of new technologies** during General Elections-2018, included:
 - a. **Result Transmission System (RTS)** was developed by NADRA for smooth transmission of results from polling stations to RO offices and ECP. RTS software was installed in mobile phones of the Presiding Officers to capture and transmit the snapshot of

Form 45 (hiccups in the system typified necessity of technical perfection).

- b. **GIS mapping** of polling stations was introduced for the first time in General Elections-2018 and successfully completed for generating a databank of polling stations with geo coordinates and pictures for information of general public.
- c. **Online Scrutiny Facilitation Cell** was established in ECP Secretariat to facilitate the ROs for scrutiny of nomination papers. Online Scrutiny Management System was developed to collect, gather and disseminate the data/information of candidates to and from the offices of Returning Officers with organizations like NADRA, FBR, NAB, SBP, etc.
- d. **Online I-voting** for overseas Pakistanis was piloted for the first time in 34 bye-elections after General Elections-2018 and was used by approximately 7600 voters.
- e. **8300 short message service** was used by millions of voters for confirmation of their voting details with polling stations for casting of votes.

With regard to General Elections-2018, I must say that with aforesaid reforms/achievements the Commission has delivered a free, fair and transparent election leading to consolidation of representative democracy.

The present Report has been prepared under section 16 read with section 14 of the Elections Act, 2017 and is divided into two parts. Part-I contains "Annual Report" while Part-II contains "Post-Election Review Report on General Elections-2018".

Towards the end, I would like to assure the nation that the Commission and the officers and staff at the ECP are wholeheartedly committed to perform their duty of conducting free, fair and transparent elections as enshrined in the Constitution.

Babar Yaqoob Fateh Muhammad
(*Sitara-e-Imtiaz*)

Secretary ECP
March 2019

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS REPORT

Sr. No.	Abbreviation	Full name
1	ADG	Additional Director General
2	APNS	All Pakistan Newspaper Society
3	ARO	Assistant Returning Officer
4	BRIDGE	Building Resources in Democracy, Governance and Elections
5	BVM	Biometric Verification Machine
6	CBC	Census Block Code
7	CCTV	Close Circuit Television
8	CEC	Chief Election Commissioner
9	CERS	Computerized Electoral Rolls System
10	CPNE	Council of Pakistan Newspaper Editors
11	CSO	Civil Society Organization
12	DAI	Development Alternatives Incorporated
13	DEC	District Election Commissioner
14	DEO	Data Entry Operator
15	DG	Director General
16	DMO	District Monitoring Officer
17	DRO	District Retuning Officer
18	DVECs	District Voters' Education Committees
19	ECP	Election Commission of Pakistan
20	EVM	Electronic Voting Machine
21	FAFEN	Free and Fair Election Network
22	FATA	Federally Administered Tribal Areas
23	FBR	Federal Board of Revenue
24	FEA	Federal Election Academy
25	FGD	Focus Group Discussion
26	GDEWG	Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group
27	GEIC	General Elections-2013 Inquiry Commission
28	GIS	Geographical Information System
29	HRCP	Human Rights Commission of Pakistan
30	IEC	Information, Education and Communication
31	KII	Key Informant Interview
32	KP	Khyber Pakhtunkhwa
33	LUMS	Lahore University of Management Sciences
34	NAB	National Accountability Bureau
35	NACTA	National Counter Terrorism Authority
36	NADRA	National Database and Registration Authority
37	NCSW	National Commission on Status of Women

Sr. No.	Abbreviation	Full name
38	NDI	National Democratic Institute
39	NIC	National Identity Card
40	NSPC	National Security Printing Company
41	NTC	National Telecommunication Company
42	OSMS	Online Scrutiny Management System
43	PBS	Pakistan Bureau of Statistics
44	PCP	Printing Corporation of Pakistan
45	PEC	Provincial Election Commissioner
46	PEMRA	Pakistan Electronic Media Regularity Authority
47	PER	Post-Election Review
48	PID	Press Information Department
49	PILDAT	Pakistan Institute of Legislative Development and Transparency
50	PKR	Pakistan Rupee
51	PPF	Pakistan Post Foundation
52	PPRA	Public Procurement Regulatory Authority
53	PSMS	Polling Scheme Management Software
54	PTA	Pakistan Telecommunication Authority
55	PTCL	Pakistan Telecommunication Company Limited
56	PWDs	Persons with Disabilities
57	REC	Regional Election Commissioner
58	RMS	Results Management System
59	RO	Returning Officer
60	RTS	Results Transmission System
61	SBP	State Bank of Pakistan
62	SOPs	Standard Operating Procedures
63	SSDO	Sustainable Social Development Organization
64	TDEA	Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability
65	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
66	VO	Verifying Official

PART-I

ANNUAL REPORT



INTRODUCTION

Free, fair and transparent electoral processes are indicators of democracy and strength of democratic institutions in a country. Article 218 of the Constitution specifically mentions the Election Commission as a permanent body responsible for organizing and conducting elections in Pakistan. It further mandates the Commission to make such arrangements as are necessary to ensure that the election is conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with law, and that corrupt practices are guarded against. The Elections Act, 2017 promulgated on 2nd October, 2017 and the Election Rules, 2017 framed and notified by the Commission on 9th November, 2017 provide the legal framework for conduct of elections.

During the year 2018, the Commission remained busy for the accomplishment of multifarious electoral events like delimitation of constituencies, revision of electoral rolls, conduct of elections to the Senate, General Elections-2018, Presidential elections and bye-elections, as well as a pilot project for voting by overseas Pakistanis. In addition, the Commission celebrated National Voters' Day and international days for women and persons with disabilities, etc.

After enactment of the Elections Act 2017, the Commission was required under section 14(1) of the Act to prepare a comprehensive Action Plan, at least four months before the general election was due to be held on expiry of the term of an Assembly, specifying all legal and administrative measures taken or required to be taken in respect of the election. These measures include the following:

- i. delimitation of constituencies;
- ii. revision of electoral rolls;
- iii. enlistment of political parties;
- iv. allocation of symbols;
- v. appointment and training of DROs, ROs, AROs, Presiding Officers, APOs, Polling Officers and other election officials;
- vi. preparation of constituency-wise list of polling stations and list of polling personnel;
- vii. determination and printing of requisite number of ballot papers and designation of printing presses;

- viii. establishment of a transparent result management system for election results;
- ix. introduction of any new technology;
- x. arrangements for election observers;
- xi. appointment of the Appellate and Election Tribunals;
- xii. security measures;
- xiii. monitoring mechanism to report progress regarding implementation of the Action Plan.

Section 16 of the Act requires the Commission to, within ninety days after the end of every calendar year, publish an “Annual Report” of its activities for the year and send the report to the Federal Government and each Provincial Government. Under section 14(2) of the Act, the Commission is required to carry out a “Post-Election Review” of implementation of the Action Plan to ascertain shortcomings, if any, with suggestions to further improve the electoral system and under section 14(3) of the Act, the “Post-Election Review Report” is also to be included in the aforesaid Annual Report.

For the purpose, the Commission constituted a Committee which carried out the Post-Election Review process, compiled the report and placed the same before the Commission which has two parts, Part-1 contains “Annual Report” whereas Part-2 contains “Post-Election Review report of General Elections-2018”.

* * * * *

1

ELECTION COMMISSION OF PAKISTAN

1.1 Constitution of Pakistan and the Election Commission

The Election Commission of Pakistan (ECP) was established under the 1956 Constitution comprising the Chief Election Commissioner and such number of Election Commissioners as may be determined by the President and their term of office was five years. The duties of the Commission were the preparation of electoral rolls, organizing and conduct of elections to the assemblies. Similarly, the 1962 Constitution also provided for an Election Commission comprising the Chief Election Commissioner and two Members, one each from West Pakistan and East Pakistan who were required to be the Judges of respective High Courts. Their term of office was three years.

Likewise, the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan promulgated in 1973 also provides for the Election Commission. Originally, the Election Commission was required to be constituted for each general election and the Commission was comprising two members only. Article 218 in its original form was as below:

- (1) “For the purpose of each general election to the national assembly and to a provincial assembly, an Election Commission shall be constituted in accordance with this Article.
- (2) The Election Commission shall consist of:
 - (a) the Commissioner who shall be the Chairman of the Commission;
 - (b) two members, each of whom shall be a judge of a High Court, appointed by the President after consultation with the Chief Justice of the High Court concerned and with the Commissioner.
- (3) It shall be the duty of the Election Commission constituted in relation to an election to organize and conduct the election and to make such arrangements as are necessary to ensure that the election is conducted honestly, justly, fairly and in accordance with law, and that corrupt practices are guarded against.”

Presently, Article 218 provides that the Election Commission shall consist of the Chief Election Commissioner who shall be the Chairman of the Commission; and four members, one from each Province, each of whom shall be a person who has been a Judge of a High Court or has been a senior civil servant or is a technocrat and is not more than 65 years of age. As per qualification contained in Article 213 of the Constitution, the Chief Election Commissioner shall be a person who has been a Judge of the Supreme Court or has been a senior civil servant or is a technocrat and is not more than 68 years of age. The Commissioner and members shall hold office for a term of five years and two of the members shall after completion of their five years term, retire by rotation after two and a half years.

Under Article 218(3) of the Constitution, the Commission is charged with the duty of “organizing and conducting elections and making such arrangements as are necessary to ensure that the election is conducted honestly, justly, fairly in accordance with law and that corrupt practices are guarded against.

1.2 Duties of the Commission

Article 219 of the Constitution, charges the Commission with the responsibility of:

- (a) preparing electoral rolls for election to the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and local governments, and revising such rolls periodically to keep them up-to-date;
- (b) organizing and conducting election to the Senate or to fill casual vacancies in a House or a Provincial Assembly; and
- (c) appointing Election Tribunals;
- (d) the holding of general elections to the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and the local governments; and
- (e) such other functions as may be specified by an Act of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament)

The Commission is also charged with the duty of delimitation of constituencies of National Assembly/Provincial Assemblies as well as the local governments in the Provinces, the Federal Capital and Cantonments. All executive authorities in the Federation and Provinces, under Article 220 of the Constitution, are required to assist the Chief Election Commissioner and the Commission in the discharge of his or their functions.

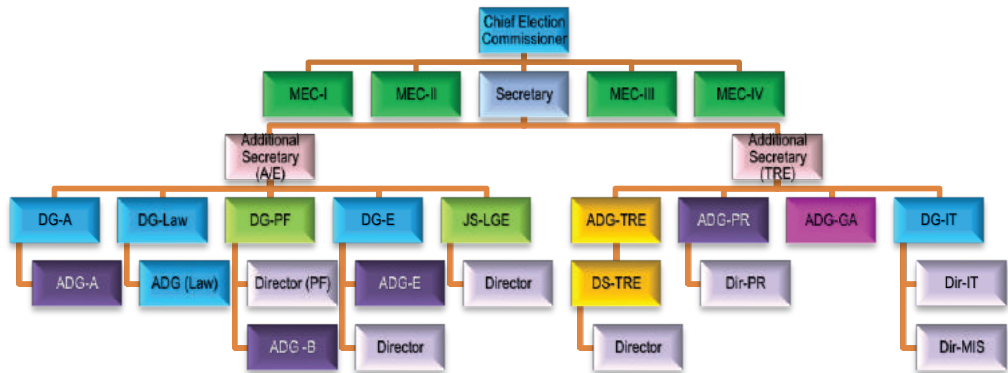
Article 221 of the Constitution read with section 6 of the Elections Act 2017 provides that the Commissioner shall exercise powers relating to the appointment of officers and staff to be employed in connection with the functions of the Commission and determine their terms and conditions of employment in accordance with the Rules.

1.3 Organizational Structure of the Election Commission

In order to organize and conduct free and fair elections, the Commission is supported by its Secretariat and the countrywide network of offices led by the Secretary ECP. The Secretary has the support of two Additional Secretaries, Director Generals (DGs), Provincial Election Commissioners (PECs), Additional Director Generals (ADGs), and other officers. The Commission has more than 2400 staff members across the country. The current organizational structure of the Commission at the Secretariat, provincial, divisional and district level is elaborated hereunder:

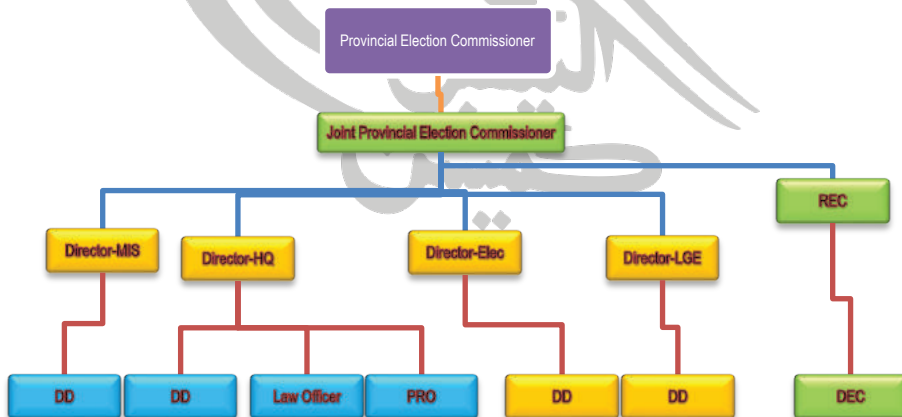
1.3.1 ECP Secretariat

The Secretariat of the Commission is located in Islamabad and is headed by a Secretary who manages the functions of the organization throughout the country. The Secretariat consists of various wings and units: Election wing, Budget wing, Administration wing, Local Government wing, Information Technology wing, Training wing, Law wing, Gender wing and Public Relations wing. Each of the wings is headed either by a DG or an ADG. The DGs are assisted by ADGs, Directors, Deputy Directors and Assistant Directors.



1.3.2 Provincial Election Commissioners' offices

The provincial set-up of the Commission is headed by a PEC whose offices are situated at the four provincial capitals: Lahore, Karachi, Peshawar and Quetta. The PECs are supported by Joint Provincial Election Commissioners, Directors, Deputy Directors, Assistant Directors and other staff.



1.3.3 Regional Election Commissioners' offices

The Commission has 29 Regional Election Commissioners (RECs) offices at divisional level. The RECs play the role of a coordinator between the PEC

offices and DEC offices. They also liaise with the divisional and district administration and other stakeholders in their respective divisions. They are also assigned duties of Regional Monitoring Officers, as well as in-charge of strong rooms.

1.3.4 District Election Commissioners' offices

The lowest tier of the Commission's organisational set-up is at the district level, headed by a District Election Commissioner (DEC). There are 131 district offices throughout the country. The DEC is mainly assigned with the following tasks:

- i. Registration Officer;
- ii. maintenance of the electoral rolls;
- iii. duties of drawing and disbursing officer;
- iv. administrative duties;
- v. liaison with district administration and other stakeholders;
- vi. supervision and coordination of all types of elections/bye-elections.

1.4 Administrative Reforms in the ECP

The "General Elections-2013 Inquiry Commission" in its report highlighted four major areas for improvement, i.e.: Planning, Training, Coordination and Monitoring. The Commission in light of the observations of the Inquiry Commission took the following measures:

A "National Coordination Committee" was constituted under the chairmanship of the Chief Election Commissioner for ensuring that there are no ambiguities in the electoral laws/policies and the Commission is well-acquainted with ground realities and requirements thereof.

A "Planning Committee" was constituted under the chairmanship of Secretary ECP to prepare strategy for conduct of General Elections-2018 in terms of human and financial resources; work out timelines for every activity necessary for holding general elections; work out implementation mechanism for Electoral Reforms, which was already in process in the Parliament; work out a logistic plan including the requirement for printing presses, storage spaces, office accommodation and transport, etc.; regularly review the training plan for the

polling staff; and keep all other factors in view with reference to general elections. A “Monitoring wing” was also created at the ECP Secretariat under the Director General (Administration) to monitor pre-poll, poll day and post poll activities.

The National Coordination Committee in its meeting in February, 2016 approved a roadmap for implementation of various goals and objectives contained in ECP’s Second Five Year Strategic Plan 2014–2018 along with other issues such as financial autonomy of the Commission, upgradation of Law wing, decentralization of financial powers to PECs, preparation for conduct of General Elections-2018, voter education plan and deployment and operationalization of CERS.

After constitution of the Planning Committee, 15 meetings of the Committee were held to discuss quality improvement and procurement of election material, printing of ballot papers, budget position, data bank of polling staff, verification of polling stations and provision of civic amenities, revision of electoral rolls, deployment of CERS in the district offices, GIS based polling scheme, use of RMS/RTS, pilot testing of EVM/BVM, preparation of training manuals and handbooks for District Returning Officers (DROs)/Returning Officers (ROs)/Assistant Returning Officers (AROs), Presiding Officers and other Polling Staff, Training Plan, progress on delimitation of constituencies, establishment of strong rooms, upgradation of office accommodations of field offices, establishment of Federal Election Academy, activities of Monitoring wing, upgradation of operational vehicles and gender mainstreaming and decreasing gap between male and female voters in the electoral rolls etc. During meetings of the Planning Committee, progress on implementation of various decisions taken in preceding meetings was continuously reviewed and policy guidelines were given to the office for timely completion of the assigned tasks to hold general elections in time.

1.4.1 Establishment of monitoring wing

In the light of the aforesaid observations of the “General Elections-2013 Inquiry Commission”, the Commission devised a monitoring mechanism and a Monitoring wing was established under Director General (Administration). The RECs were assigned duties of various activities of monitoring within their ambit. After enactment of the Elections Act, 2017, section 234 made monitoring of election campaign mandatory. Similarly, under section 14 of the Elections Act, 2017, the Commission prepared an Action Plan regarding

various activities for the conduct of general elections and one of the key aspects was to have in place a proper monitoring mechanism to observe the implementation of activities mentioned in the Action Plan at all stages. The Monitoring wing is responsible for proper implementation of the Commission's decisions by all concerned and to keep a vigilant eye on the functions of all concerned.

1.4.2 Establishment of strong rooms

Section 99(3) of the Elections Act-2017 provides that:

“The Commission shall arrange storage space under its control at appropriate places for safe custody of tamper-evident sealed bags containing the documents specified in sub-section (1) pertaining to all constituencies.”

In pursuance of aforesaid provisions, the Commission established 29 strong rooms at divisional level out of which 6 are in Balochistan, 8 in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, 9 in Punjab and 6 in Sindh. Keeping in view the sensitivity of polling material/record and to guard against any mishap, the Commission took various safety measures such as steel racks for placing of polling bags, double lock system, installation of CCTV cameras, fire-fighting apparatus (fire alarm, fire extinguisher) and round-the-clock police security/security guards.

1.5 Assistance to Parliament

The Commission assisted the Standing Committees of the National Assembly and the Senate on different matters. The Commission also responded the starred questions and provided requisite information to both Houses of the Parliament. The Commission also provided input through comments and briefings on proposed legislation as and when required. During this year, the Commission provided input/comments on various Constitutional as well as Statutory Amendment Bills.

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2

ENLISTMENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES

Political parties are indispensable for democratic political systems in the country which reflect public will. The Political Parties play a pivotal role in promotion of a constitutional, democratic and political culture. We live in the age of electoral representative democracy in which people choose their representatives to carry out the work of government on their behalf.

According to section 200 of the Elections Act, 2017, it is lawful for anybody of individuals or association of citizens to form, organize and continue or set-up a political party having distinct identity and name, avoiding propagating any opinion prejudicial to the fundamental principles enshrined in the Constitution and respecting the sovereignty and integrity of Pakistan. For enlistment, a political party may file an application with the Commission along with a printed copy of its constitution, the certificate for conducting intra party elections on Form-65, a copy of consolidated statement of its accounts, a list of at least two thousand members with their signatures or thumb impressions on Form-64 with copies of their National Identity Cards and proof of depositing PKR 200,000 in favour of the Commission in the Government Treasury as enlistment fee. Every citizen, not being in the service of Pakistan has the right to form or be a member of a political party. A political party is to ensure at least five percent representation of women candidates for contesting elections on general seats (National Assembly/Provincial Assembly).

A political party shall have an elected general council which shall meet at least once in a year. The office-bearers at the Federal, Provincial and local levels, wherever applicable, are to be elected periodically in accordance with the constitution of the political party. A political party is to submit a certificate signed by an office-bearer authorized by the Party Head, to the Commission within seven days from completion of the intra-party elections, to the effect that the elections are held in accordance with the constitution of the political party. A political party is to submit to the Commission within 60 days from the close of a financial year, a consolidated statement of its accounts audited by a Chartered Accountant on Form-D containing; annual income and expenses, sources of its funds and assets and liabilities. A political party is to furnish to the Commission the list of contributors who have donated or contributed an amount equal to or more than PKR 100,000 to the political party for its election

campaign expenses and details of the election expenses incurred by it during a general election.

A political party enlisted with the Commission before commencement of the Elections Act, 2017, was deemed to have been enlisted under the said Act provided it had filed with the Commission the documents mentioned in sub-section (2) of section 202 of the Elections Act, 2017 and if not, it will have to submit the documents within 60 from the commencement of the Act.

Soon after promulgation of the Act, all previously enlisted political parties were asked through Press Releases to submit requisite documents with the Commission within stipulated time and notices were issued to 351 political parties. Resultantly, 284 political parties which failed to submit the requisite documents were de-listed by the Commission after giving them reasonable opportunity of hearing. Only 67 political parties which fulfilled the requirements remained enlisted. Later on, the Supreme Court of Pakistan granted relief to 35 aggrieved political parties which were re-enlisted by the Commission upon fulfilling the legal requirements. In total 119 political parties including 17 new political parties were enlisted with the Commission whereas 95 political parties contested the General Elections-2018.

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3

DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES

Existence of territorial constituencies is first and foremost requirement ahead of any election in parliamentary form of government without which concept of elections is virtually impossible. So far as delimitation process in respect of General Elections-2018 is concerned, it is pertinent to mention that during the months of March–May 2017, the 6th Population Census-2017 was carried out across the country, summary of provisional results whereof was made public by the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics on 31st July, 2017 according to which significant demographic changes were noticed in the Federating Units.

The population in Punjab was comparatively decreased whereas the population of the Federal Capital, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan got increased. Since the census figures were provisional, delimitation could not take place as per existing constitutional provisions. The Commission took up the matter with the Parliament that General Elections-2018 could be held only after fresh delimitation due to new population data. Against this backdrop, Parliament promulgated the 24th Constitutional amendment on 24th December 2017 through which the number of seats in the National Assembly was re-allocated to the Provinces and Federal Capital on the basis of the provisional results of the 6th Population Census. A brief account of re-allocation of seats is given below:

Province/ area	Previous seats			Seats after 24 th Amendment			Addition/ subtraction
	General seats	Women seats	Total	General Seats	Women seats	Total	
Balochistan	14	3	17	16	4	20	2 + 1
KP	35	8	43	39	9	48	4 + 1
Punjab	148	35	183	141	33	174	-7/-2
Sindh	61	14	75	61	14	75	No change
FATA	12	0	12	12	0	12	No change
ICT	2	0	2	3	0	3	1 + 0
Total	272	60	332	272	60	332	

In other words, 24th Constitutional amendment provided that for purpose of General Elections-2018 and bye-elections related thereto, allocation of seats be made on basis of provisional results of 2017 census published by Federal Government. Accordingly, Pakistan Bureau of Statistics officially published provisional results of the 6th Population Census vide Notification no. 1(2)/2004-PBS(C) dated 3rd January, 2018. After completion of all prerequisites for delimitation, the Commission in pursuance of provisions of section 17 of the Elections Act, 2017 started its work to delimit territorial constituencies as per timelines given below.

Sr. No.	Activity	Timelines	
1	Procurement of maps and other relevant data	16 days	26.12.2017 to 10.01.2018
2	Appointment of Delimitation Committees and training	16 days	26.12.2017 to 05.01.2018
3	Delimitation of constituencies and submission of draft proposals before the Commission	45 days	15.01.2018 to 28.02.2018
4	Publication of draft delimitation for inviting proposals/objections	30 days	05.03.2018 to 03.04.2018
5	Disposal of proposals/objections by the commission and official publication of delimitation	30 days	04.04.2018 to 03.05.2018

The Commission in pursuance of rule 7 of the Election Rules 2017 constituted five Delimitation Committees for the purpose of delimitation of constituencies of National and Provincial Assemblies, vide Office Order no. F.8(2)/2018-Elec-I dated 15th January, 2018. Committees were assigned task of delimitation of National and Provincial Assembly constituencies in respect of Provinces as well as delimitation of National Assembly constituencies falling in Federal Capital and Federally Administered Tribal Areas. A comprehensive training to members of Delimitation Committees was arranged by Federal Election Academy from 3rd to 5th January, 2018 at Islamabad. All possible logistic efforts were made to keep these Committees free from pressure and influence.



Training on the delimitation process

Delimitation Committees delimited constituencies in accordance with principles of delimitation as provided in section 20 of the Elections Act, 2017 and submitted a draft of preliminary proposals to the Commission on 28th February, 2018. With a view to seeking representations from general public/constituents, the Commission published draft of preliminary proposals on 5th March, 2018 in official Gazette as required under section 21 *ibid*. In order to facilitate general public and for sake of transparency, preliminary list of constituencies of National/Provincial assemblies along with constituency-wise marked maps were also made available on ECP's website.

Representations were invited from voters of respective National and Provincial Assemblies constituencies to meet requirements of section 21 *ibid*. A Facilitation Centre was set up at ECP Secretariat Islamabad for provision of copies of marked as well as unmarked maps of district to applicants for preparation of representations and also to receive representations. Detail of constituencies and procedure for filing of representations against preliminary lists of constituencies was given wide publicity through electronic and print media.

Representations against draft proposals were filed w.e.f. 6th March to 3rd April, 2018 during office hours. A representation submitted after due date was not entertained. A total of 1,280 representations were received against preliminary proposals for delimitation out of which 614 were accepted and rest were dismissed. The Commission fixed district-wise dates for hearing and issued notices to all concerned in that regard. Service of notices was also ensured through SMS besides using conventional means. Detail in respect of all representations is given below:

Province/area	Total no. of representations		
	Filed	Accepted	Dismissed
Balochistan	104	21	83
KP	182	123	59
Punjab	676	396	280
Sindh	290	70	220
FATA	11	4	7
Islamabad	17	0	17
Total	1,280	614	666

It was for the first time that all proceedings were held in the open court. During hearing of representations, maps of preliminary constituencies published by Commission and proposed maps of petitioners were displayed on large screens in juxtaposition. State-of-the-art arrangements enabled petitioners and their counsels to litigate their objections and present their alternate proposals to Commission in an elaborative manner and with high level of convenience and clarity. The process of hearing of representations commenced on 4th April, 2018 ended on 2nd May, 2018. After incorporation of decisions of Election Commission, final list of constituencies was published for information of general public on 3rd May, 2018.

It is worthwhile to mention that with the passage of 24th Constitutional amendment on 24th December, 2017, it became expedient to delimit constituencies afresh on the basis of population in accordance with the last preceding census officially published. However, only four months' time was available with the Commission to complete this gigantic task. The Delimitation Committees had to work day and night and within a period of 45 days only, the preliminary lists of 849 constituencies were got finalized and made public on 5th March, 2018 with approval of the Commission. The Commission disposed

of 1,280 representations within permissible 30 days through lengthy hearing process that remained continued late at night.

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4 ELECTORAL ROLLS

After General Elections-2013, the Commission undertook revisions of electoral rolls in 2015, 2016 and 2017–2018 wherein all eligible persons were enrolled as voters and all disqualified voters (deceased, nationality surrender, cancelled NICs etc.), were excluded. As a result of such revisions, about 20 million voters were added in electoral rolls after General Elections-2013. The statistics of the final electoral rolls used in General Elections-2013 and 2018 are as under:

Total voters in final electoral rolls used in General Elections-2013	Total voters in final electoral rolls used in General Elections-2018	Increase in voters
86,189,835	105,955,409	19,765,574

As per provisions of section 25 of the Elections Act, 2017, the Commission in collaboration with NADRA devised a mechanism for provision of one window facility to ensure that fresh NIC holder is automatically enrolled as voter. Accordingly, NADRA revised its NIC Registration Form by providing therein a column for obtaining option from the applicant for registration of his vote at either of his addresses mentioned in his NIC. The said mechanism is operating on regular basis and under section 25 *ibid* NADRA provides data of every fresh National Identity Card issued by it to the Commission for registration of the card-holder as a voter in electoral roll of an electoral area in which his permanent or temporary address is located.

As per provisions of section 23(2) of the Elections Act, 2017, the Commission developed a Computerized Electoral Rolls System (CERS) to prepare and manage electoral rolls. The CERS has been made operational at all provincial and district offices in month of January, 2018 and connected to ECP Secretariat and National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). This operationalization enabled all District Election Commissioners (DECs)/Registration Officers (ROs) to carry out data entry at their premises which ultimately contribute to swift updating/management of the electoral rolls. It also enabled DECs/ROs to register new NIC holders as voters in a timely manner, the data of whom is being received from NADRA under section 25 of the Elections Act, 2017. Operationalization and deployment of CERS in all

provincial and district offices enabled the Commission to achieve Goal 6 of its Strategic Plan 2014–2018.

Before General Elections-2018, revision and updation of electoral rolls was a big challenge for the Commission. The Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) increased census blocks from 139,933 to 163,694 for the 6th National Population Census held in 2017. By adopting new Census Block Scheme, the Commission decided to undertake revision of electoral rolls before General Elections-2018 to include all eligible citizens and exclude all disqualified voters (deceased, nationality surrender, cancelled NICs etc.). The exercise for revision of electoral rolls started in December, 2017 and completed in April, 2018. Because of this revision, voters count increased from 97.03 million to 105.95 million. A comprehensive voter education campaign on the revision of electoral rolls was carried out. There was a repeated public notice in all national as well as regional newspapers. The public notice was followed by a half-page voter awareness message for 9 times with 34 insertions of advertisement. In addition, a voter education campaign regarding revision of electoral rolls was also carried out on news channels and cable networks.

Due to paucity of time, each and every activity was planned with stringent timelines to prepare electoral rolls well in time. The activities were divided in following categories;

- i. Reconciliation of existing Census Block Code Scheme-2012 with new Census Block Code Scheme-2017;
- ii. Creation of new Census Block Code Scheme for preparation of the electoral rolls;
- iii. Adjustment of voters in affected Census Blocks;
- iv. Inclusion of qualified voters (persons attaining age of 18 years);
- v. Exclusion of disqualified voters (deceased voters, surrender of Nationality, cancellation of NICs etc.);
- vi. Verification of inclusion and exclusion of votes through door-to-door verification exercise;
- vii. Printing of preliminary electoral rolls;
- viii. Establishment of Display Centres for display of preliminary electoral rolls and inviting claims, objections and applications for corrections; and

- ix. Disposal of claims and objections by revising authorities and data entry of forms received at Display Centres;
- x. Printing of final electoral rolls for the General Elections-2018.

The most challenging task was to adopt new census block code scheme-2017. For this purpose, as a first step, a reconciliation exercise was carried out across the country to compare existing block code scheme-2012 with new block code scheme-2017. The Commission engaged staff of PBS to determine the areas falling in new census block codes for revision of electoral rolls.

Adoption of new census block code scheme-2017 necessitated door-to-door verification of affected voters to determine their correct census blocks as well as allocation of census blocks to fresh NICs holders/New Voters. After door-to-door verification exercise, about 7.3 million voters were added and 0.9 million ineligible voters were excluded from electoral rolls.

A total of 14,548 display centres were established across the country to place preliminary electoral rolls for public inspection and inviting claims, objections and applications for correction. A large-scale media campaign at national level was launched in collaboration with development partners to create awareness amongst general public on the importance of voter registration. With a view to facilitate general public, complaint centres were also established at district, divisional, provincial and national level. A good number of people visited display centres and submitted forms for enrolment, transfer and correction of votes. Around 3.5 million voters checked their vote registration details through ECP's short message service—8300 during revision of electoral rolls.



An ECP-established Display Centre in a school

The claims, objections and applications for correction of votes received at display centres were decided by Revising Authorities appointed in districts and forms approved by them were sent for data entry. Gender and age-wise statistics of registered voters on electoral rolls used in General Elections-2018 are as under:



The electoral rolls at a Display Centre

Gender-wise statistics

Province	Male	Female	Transgender persons	Total
Balochistan	2,486,174	1,813,241	79	4,299,494
KP	8,704,514	6,609,541	114	15,314,169
Punjab	33,679,041	26,992,374	1,356	60,672,771
Sindh	12,436,579	9,954,320	345	22,391,244
FATA	1,509,126	1,003,143	15	2,512,284
Federal Area	407,492	357,951	4	765,447
Total	59,222,926	46,730,570	1,913	105,955,409

Age-wise statistics of voters

18–25 years	26–35 years	36–45 years	46–55 years	56–65 years	65+ years	Total
17,443,094	28,995,231	22,484,021	16,134,508	10,281,338	10,617,217	105,955,409
16%	27%	21%	15%	10%	10%	

After inclusion of eligible voters, updated electoral rolls were printed and supplied for the conduct of bye-elections in 40 National and Provincial Assemblies constituencies held on 14th and 21st October, 2018.

Section-27 of the Elections Act, 2017 allows voter registration only on an address given in NIC. All those voters registered on any address other than NIC were given 31st December, 2018 as the deadline for adjustment of their vote according to their NIC. The Commission launched a comprehensive public awareness campaign on print and electronic media together with public notices and press releases on the implications of section 27 of the Elections Act, 2017. Letters to this effect were also sent to all Chief Secretaries, Secretaries of National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies as well as Ministries/Government Departments for awareness of elected representatives and government employees.

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5

CONDUCT OF THE SENATE ELECTIONS

Federal Legislature in Pakistan is bicameral and consists of the Senate of Pakistan (Upper House) and National Assembly of Pakistan (Lower House). Elections to the Senate are held after every three years. Articles 59 and 224(3) of the Constitution provide for composition of the Senate and mode of election. Articles 62 and 63 envisage qualifications and disqualifications for candidates and Article 224(3) relates to time of election to seats rendered vacant on expiration of term of office of members of the Senate. The original membership of the Senate was 45 which was raised to 63 in 1977 and to 87 in 1985. Then in 2002 the same was again increased from 87 to 100 and then the figure reached 104 after allocation of 1 non-Muslim seat for each Province in 2012. The composition of the Senate is as below:

Province/area	General seats	Special seats			Total seats
		Ulema/technocrats	Women	Non-Muslims	
Balochistan	14	4	4	1	23
KP	14	4	4	1	23
Punjab	14	4	4	1	23
Sindh	14	4	4	1	23
FATA	8	-	-	-	8
Federal Capital	2	1	1	-	4
Total	66	17	17	4	104

FATA has been merged into Khyber Pakhtunkhwa as a result of 25th Constitutional amendment and by virtue of this merger, eight general seats allocated to FATA have been reduced in the Senate of Pakistan. The same shall be implemented after completion of term of senators elected from FATA in 2015 and 2018 respectively. Then the total membership of the Senate will become 96.

Procedure and electoral college for the Senate elections is given as under:

- i. Under Article 59 of the Constitution, the Senate consists of one-hundred and four members, of whom:
- ii. Fourteen are elected by members of each Provincial Assembly;

- iii. Eight are elected from Federal Administered Tribal Areas, in such manner as president may, by Order, prescribe;
- iv. Two on general seats, and one woman and one technocrat, including *aalim*, are elected from Federal Capital in such manner as President may, by Order, prescribe;
- v. Four women are elected by members of each provincial Assembly;
- vi. Four technocrats, including *ulema*, are elected by members of each Provincial Assembly; and
- vii. Four non-Muslims, one from each Province, are elected by Members of each Provincial Assembly.

The electoral college to fill the general seats, *ulema*/technocrats, women and non-Muslims from the Provinces will be the concerned Provincial Assembly to fill the seats of Federal Capital and FATA, the Electoral College is the National Assembly and the members of National Assembly from FATA, respectively.

According to Article 219 (b) of the Constitution, the ECP is charged with the duty of organizing and conducting elections and bye-elections also to the Senate of Pakistan. Each member of the Senate is elected for a term of six years and term of half members of the Senate comes to an end after three years and as such the Senate elections are held after every three years.

The term of office of 52 members was to be completed on 11th March, 2018 and election for these seats was to be conducted before expiration of term of office of these Senators. The detail of these seats is as under:

Province/area	General seats	Special seats			Total seats
		<i>Ulema</i> /technocrats	Women	Non-Muslims	
Balochistan	7	2	2	-	11
KP	7	2	2	-	11
Punjab	7	2	2	1	12
Sindh	7	2	2	1	12
FATA	4	-	-	-	4
Federal Capital	1	1	-	-	2
Total	66	17	17	2	52

5.1 Election Programme

Provinces: While fulfilling the legal obligations as embodied under Article 59(1)(f) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, read with section 107 of the Elections Act, 2017, Election Commission issued the Programme for the Senate elections on 2nd February, 2018.

Federal Capital, Islamabad: Since the Senate Election Act, 1975 was repealed after the enactment of the Elections Act, 2017, the Presidential order no. 3 of 1988 with regard to the prescription of procedures for elections to the Senate seats in respect of the Federal Capital was accordingly revised on 2nd February, 2018. The Election Commission under Article 59(3), 224(3) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan read with section 107 of the Elections Act, 2017 and the Senate (Election of Members from Federal Capital) Order, 2018 (P.O. no. 1 of 2018), issued the election programme on 4th February, 2018, calling upon the Members of the National Assembly to elect to the Senate one Member each against general seats and seats reserved for technocrats, including *ulema*, from the Federal Capital.

Federally Administered Tribal Areas FATA: For application of the Elections Act, 2017 to the Federally Administered Tribal Areas, approval/directions of the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan under Article 247(3) was required. Similarly, under section 122 of the Elections Act, 2017, voting procedure for election to the Senate from Federally Administered Tribal Areas was also to be prescribed by President by Order.

After issuance of President's order by States and Frontier Regions Division Notification/SRO dated 5th February, 2018, Election Commission under Article 59(3), 224(3) of the Constitution of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan read with section 107 of the Elections Act, 2017 issued Programme on 6th February, 2018 through which members of National Assembly from Federally Administered Tribal Areas were called upon to elect to the Senate four Members against general seats.

5.2 Appointment of ROs and Polling Officers

The Commission appointed six ROs and 28 polling officers from amongst its own officers in order to fill vacant seats. In order to acquaint polling personnel with their assigned job, three days training was imparted to them. Furthermore, ROs were issued a set of comprehensive instructions for conduct of the Senate

elections. These were, in fact, guidelines which included “legal framework”, “composition of the Senate”, “schedule for election”, “appointment of ROs and Polling Officers”, “nomination of candidate”, “scrutiny of nomination papers”, “Qualification for candidates”, “appeals against rejection of nomination papers” etc. Pursuant to section 108 of the Elections Act, 2017, the Commission provided ROs with a list of voters for election to the Senate from a Province, Islamabad Capital Territory or Federally Administered Tribal Areas, for verification of names of proposers and seconders on nomination papers and also for use at polling stations.

5.3 Establishment of Facilitation Cell

A facilitation Cell was established in ECP Secretariat to facilitate ROs in scrutiny of nomination papers of candidates. The cell provided speedy and authentic data/information after reconciliation electronically (online) from all concerned departments, i.e. NADRA, State Bank of Pakistan, National Accountability Bureau, Federal Board of Revenue and Ministry of Interior. Online replies/feedbacks were immediately forwarded to all respective ROs for evaluation of nomination papers of proposed candidates during scrutiny process. This technical assistance has shown satisfactory result and task of getting information from source department was accomplished.

5.4 Appointment of Appellate Tribunal

In pursuance of section 113(1) of the Elections Act, 2017, the Commission appointed five Hon’able Judges of High Courts as Appellate Tribunal to decide the appeals filed against the acceptance/rejection of nomination papers by the ROs.

5.5 Issuance of Pamphlets/Booklets for Guidance of Polling Staff and Voters

Election Commission provided all voters (Members of National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies) a pamphlet containing procedure for casting vote in favour of candidates for General Seats, seats reserved for women and seats reserved for technocrats/*ulema*. Besides, a booklet titled “How to vote under system of proportional representation by means of a single transferable vote” for guidance of polling staff as well as voters was also published. The booklet briefly explained format of ballot paper, procedure of marking ballot paper and

counting of votes etc. The booklet was printed both in Urdu and English language for convenience of polling staff and voters.

During the course of the election to the Senate, 2018, the Hon'ble Supreme Court passed an order in Constitution Petitions no. 37, to 45, 47 to 51 and 54 of 2017 and Civil Miscellaneous Appeal no. 244 of 2017, under Article 184(3) of the Constitution. The operative part of the order is as under;

“As a result of the above declaration, all steps taken, orders passed, directions given and documents issued by Respondent no. 4 as Party Head after his disqualification on 28.7.2017 are also declared to have never been taken, passed, given or issued in the eyes of the law. The Election Commission of Pakistan is accordingly directed to remove the name of Respondent no. 4 (Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif) as President/Party Head of Respondent no. 3 (Pakistan Muslim League (N) from all relevant record(s)).

This short order put an impact on the Senate elections as the Pakistan Muslim League (N) candidates were issued party tickets by the Pakistan Muslim League (N) ex-president namely Mian Muhammad Nawaz Sharif whereas the court declared that all documents issued by the Pakistan Muslim League (N) ex-president as party head after disqualification on 28.07.2017 to have never been issued in the eyes of the law. This prompted the Commission to take a decision so that the ongoing Senate election process may not hamper in any way and the constitutional responsibility entrusted upon the Commission may be accomplished within stipulated time. After thorough deliberations, the Commission while dilating upon various options to complete the election in time as well as to dispel impression/rumours already in circulation regarding postponement of the Senate elections declared through an order that the candidates who were issued party tickets by the Pakistan Muslim League (N) ex-president shall be considered as “independent candidates”. In this way, the election programme did not suffer.

5.6 Ballot Boxes

Transparent ballot boxes were used in the Senate elections to ensure transparency in electoral process and also for convenience of voters. These ballot boxes were placed in front of RO at a prominent place so that he as well as Members of respective Assemblies could watch ballot papers being inserted therein. Further, in order to maintain secrecy of ballot, the Commission issued

special instructions to the ROs not to allow any voter to carry cellular phone in polling stations.

5.7 Ballot Paper

The ballot papers for general seats were printed in white colour whereas ballot papers for seats reserved for women and technocrats/*ulema* and non-Muslims were printed in Pink, Green and Yellow colours respectively. Each ballot paper contained names of contesting candidates and box for marking preference against each. The names on ballot papers appeared in Urdu alphabetical order. There is no provision for allotment of symbol to contesting candidates in the Senate elections except FATA. All ballot papers were got printed from Printing Corporation of Pakistan Press, Islamabad.

5.8 Place of Poll

The poll for Federal Capital and Federally Administered Tribal Areas was held in National Assembly Hall and Committee Room of the Senate Secretariat, Islamabad, respectively. Similarly, poll for Provinces of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan was held in Provincial Assembly building of each Province. For the purpose of poll all these buildings were declared as Polling Stations.

5.9 Polling Hours

Under section 120 of the Elections Act 2017, the RO, subject to direction by the Commission, had to fix hours during which poll was to be taken and to give public notice of hours so fixed. The Commission directed that poll for election to the Senate should, in all cases, be held between 9:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. on polling day, i.e. 3rd March, 2018, without break.

5.10 Counting of Votes and Declaration of Results

Immediately after close of poll, ROs started counting of votes and declared election results without any delay. Election Commission accordingly notified names of returned candidates in the official Gazette.

On 9th March, 2018, the Commission in pursuance of section 124 of the Elections Act, 2017, issued notification of 47 returned candidates whereas result of 5 remaining returned candidates were conditionally notified on 10th

March, 2018 due to cases pending in August Supreme Court of Pakistan with regard to dual nationality of returned candidates.

5.11 Appointment of Election Tribunals

In pursuance of provisions of section 140 of the Act, the Commission appointed Judges of respective High Courts as Election Tribunals for trial and disposal of election petitions relating to the Senate Elections-2018 in respect of four Provinces, the Federal Capital and FATA.

1. Statistical data in respect of nomination papers

Details of nomination papers filed, rejected and final candidates is given in the following table:

Area/province	Filed	Rejected	Validly nominated candidates	Revised validly nominated candidates	Contesting candidates
General seats					
Balochistan	15	-	15	15	15
KP	20	2	18	-	14
Punjab	19	5	14	15	10
Sindh	23	2	21	22	18
FATA	28	4	24	-	24
Federal Capital	5	-	5	-	3
Total	110	13	97	52	84
Seats reserved for women					
Balochistan	6	1	5	6	6
KP	8	-	8	-	8
Punjab	5	-	5	5	3
Sindh	9	1	8	-	6
Total	28	2	26	11	23
Seats reserved for ulema/technocrats					
Balochistan	7	3	4	5	4
KP	6	-	6	-	5
Punjab	5	2	3	5	5
Sindh	11	2	9	-	6
Federal Capital	3	1	2	-	2
Total	32	8	24	10	22
Seats reserved for non-Muslims					
Punjab	3	-	3	2	2
Sindh	4	-	4	-	3
Total	7	-	7	2	5

2. Conduct of bye-elections to the Senate

Under Article 224(5) of the Constitution read with section 127 of the Elections Act, 2017, it is responsibility of the Commission to conduct election to fill vacant seat within 30 days from occurrence of vacancy in the Senate. A bye-election on seat of the Senate is held when:

- i. Before expiration of term of office of a Member elected to the Senate, his seat becomes vacant or is declared vacant or his election to the Senate is declared void, Commission shall, by notification in official Gazette, call upon Members of Provincial Assembly, National Assembly or Members of National Assembly elected from Federally Administered Tribal Areas, as the case may be, to elect a person for purpose of filling vacancy on such date as may be specified in notification;
- ii. The seats of two or more Members, who were elected to the Senate by a Provincial Assembly, National Assembly or, by Members of National Assembly elected from Federally Administered Tribal Areas, become vacant, as the case may be, and whose term of office was due to expire on same day become vacant simultaneously, elections to fill such seats are held together; and
- iii. The seats of two or more Members, who were elected to the Senate by a Provincial Assembly, National Assembly or by Members of National Assembly elected from FATA and whose term of office was due to expire on different dates become vacant simultaneously, elections to fill such seats are held separately.

Six bye-elections were conducted in the year 2018. The detail of the Senate bye-elections is as under:

Sr. No.	Province	Category	Reason of vacation of seats	Date of issuance of schedule	Date of poll
1	Punjab	General seat	Disqualification	6.2.2018	1.03.2018
2	Punjab	General seat	Resignation	7.9.2018	3.10.2018
3	Punjab	General seat	De-notification	26.10.2018	15.11.2018
4	Punjab	Women seat	De-notification	26.10.2018	15.11.2018
5	Balochistan	General seat	Resignation	20.08.2018	12.09.2018
6	Balochistan	General seat	Death	19.12.2018	14.01.2019

* * * * *

6

ALLOCATION OF SYMBOLS TO POLITICAL PARTIES

In order to facilitate the illiterate and aged persons, the symbol is used in electoral process and a picture of a familiar object is printed on the ballot paper against the name of each contesting candidate. The candidates run their election campaign on the basis of this pictorial symbol, which itself is a source of publicity and has great effect on the public mind.

The process of allocation of symbols is regulated by Chapter XII of the Elections Act, 2017 and the Election Rules, 2017. Both the chapters provide procedure for allotment of symbols, classification of symbols, manner for submission of applications for allocation of symbol, principles of allocation of symbols, symbols disputed by parties or group of parties and allotment of symbol to an independent candidate.

A political party enlisted under the Elections Act, 2017 is eligible to obtain an election symbol for contesting elections for Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament), Provincial Assemblies or local government on submission to the Commission:

- i. a certificate duly signed by the authorized office-bearer to the effect that the intra party elections were held in accordance with the constitution of the party and the provisions of the Elections Act, 2017;
- ii. a consolidated statement within sixty days from the close of a financial year of its accounts audited by a Chartered Accountant on Form D containing;
- iii. annual income and expenses;
- iv. sources of its funds and assets and liabilities; and
- v. a certificate for ensuring five percent representation of women candidates to contest on general seats.

A combination of enlisted political parties is also entitled to obtain one election symbol for an election only if each party constituting such combination submits said certificates and statements. An election symbol already allocated to a political party shall not be allocated to any other political party or combination of political parties.

The Commission through a press release invited applications from the political parties for allocation of Election Symbol on 15th May, 2018. A total of 107 political parties submitted applications for allocation of symbols. The Commission in its meeting held on 29th May, 2018 after considering the preferences/objections, allocated the symbols to the following political parties as mentioned against each.

Sr. No.	Political party	Symbol
1	Aam Admi Tehreek Pakistan	Mug
2	Aam Awam Party	Wheat bunch
3	Aam Log Party Pakistan	Hut
4	All Pakistan Minority Movement	Giraffe
5	All Pakistan Muslim League	Eagle
6	All Pakistan Muslim League (Jinnah)	Bicycle
7	All Pakistan Tehreek	Boat
8	Allah-O-Akbar Tehreek	Chair
9	Amun Taraqqi Party	Tyre
10	Awam League	Human hand
11	Awami Justice Party Pakistan	Tumbler
12	Awami Muslim League Pakistan	Ink pot with pen
13	Awami National Party	Lantern
14	Awami Party Pakistan-S	Aeroplane
15	Awami Workers Party	Bulb
16	Balochistan Awami Party	Cow
17	Balochistan National Movement	Sickle
18	Balochistan National Party	Axe
19	Balochistan National Party (Awami)	Camel
20	Barabri Party Pakistan	Gate
21	Front National Pakistan	Unity
22	Grand Democratic Alliance	Star
23	Hazara Democratic Party	Crescent
24	Humdardan-e-Watan Pakistan	Coat
25	Islami Jamhoori Ittehad Pakistan	Football
26	Islami Tehreek Pakistan	Two swords
27	Ittehad-e-Ummat Pakistan	Energy saver
28	Jamat-e-Islami Pakistan	Scale
29	Jamhoori Watan Party	Wheel
30	Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Nazaryati Pakistan	Takhti
31	Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam(F)	Pen
32	Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan (Noorani)	Key
33	Jamiyat Ulma-e-Islam Pakistan(S)	Ladder
34	Jamote Qaumi Movement	Electric pole

Sr. No.	Political party	Symbol
35	Jannat Pakistan Party	Fountain
36	Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Pakistan	Tent
37	Markazi Jamiat Ahl-e-Hadith	Spectacles
38	Mohajir Qaumi Movement (Pakistan)	Candle
39	Move on Pakistan	Ostrich
40	Muhib-e-Watan Noujawan Anqlabion Ki Anjuman (MNAKA)	Cap
41	Mustaqbil Pakistan	Comb
42	Mutahida Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan	Book
43	Mutahidda Ulema Mashaikh Council of Pakistan	Combat aircraft
44	Mutahiddia Qabail Party	Turban
45	Mutihida League	Bear
46	Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan	Kite
47	National Party	Saw
48	National Peace Council Party	Swallow
49	Pak Sarzameen Party	Dolphin
50	Pakhtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party	Tree
51	Pakistan Aman Party	Dove
52	Pakistan Aman Tehreek	Missile
53	Pakistan Awami Inqelabi League	Trophy
54	Pakistan Awami League	Hockey
55	Pakistan Awami Raj	Jharoo
56	Pakistan Awami Tehreek	Motorcycle
57	Pakistan Citizen Movement	Tower
58	Pakistan Conservative Party	Torch
59	Pakistan Falah Party	Ship
60	Pakistan Falahi Tehreek	Lotus
61	Pakistan Freedom Movement	Date tree
62	Pakistan Human Party	Sun
63	Pakistan Human Rights Party	Umbrella
64	Pakistan Islamic Republican Party	Badge
65	Pakistan Justice and Democratic Party	Gavel
66	Pakistan Kissan Ittehad (Ch. Anwar)	Plough
67	Pakistan Muslim Alliance	Fish
68	Pakistan Muslim League	Tractor
69	Pakistan Muslim League (Council)	Minar-e-Pakistan
70	Pakistan Muslim League (Functional)	Rose
71	Pakistan Muslim League (Junejo)	Bus
72	Pakistan Muslim League (N)	Tiger
73	Pakistan Muslim League (Zia-ul-Haq Shaheed)	Helicopter
74	Pakistan Muslim League Organization	Stag
75	Pakistan Muslim League Sher-e-Bangal A.K. Fazal-UI-Haque	Rickshaw

Sr. No.	Political party	Symbol
76	Pakistan National Muslim League	Hukkah
77	Pakistan Peoples Party	Sword
78	Pakistan Peoples Party (Shaheed Bhutto)	Fist
79	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians	Arrow
80	Pakistan Peoples Party Workers	Victory sign
81	Pakistan Quami Yakjehti Party	Peacock
82	Pakistan Reh-e-Haq Party	Iron
83	Pakistan Siraiki Party (T)	Spade
84	Pakistan Sunni Tehreek	Table lamp
85	Pakistan Supreme Democratic Party	Diamond
86	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf	Bat
87	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (Nazriati)	Batsman
88	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-Gulalai	Racket
89	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaniat	Scissors
90	Pakistan Welfare Party	Olympic torch
91	Pakistan Yaqeen Party	Alphabet p
92	Pasban Pakistan	Balloons
93	Peoples Movement of Pakistan	Rope
94	Peoples Muslim League (Pakistan)	Cup and saucer
95	Qaumi Watan Party	Chiragh (oil lamp)
96	Roshan Pakistan League	Tortoise
97	Saraikistan Democratic Party	Deer
98	Sindh United Party	Car
99	Sunni Ittehad Council	Horse
100	Sunni Tehreek	Clock
101	Tabdeeli Pasand Party Pakistan	Crown
102	Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan	Crane
103	Tehreek Tabdili Nizam Pakistan	Elephant
104	Tehreek-e-Difa-e-Pakistan	Bow
105	Tehreek-e-Labbaiq Islam	Cannon
106	Tehreek-e-Suba Hazara Pakistan	Truck
107	Tehrik Jawanan Pakistan	Laptop

Twelve enlisted political parties did not apply for symbols. In addition to this, combination of few political parties entered into political alliances namely Grand Democratic Alliance (GDA), Muttahida Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan (MMAP) and Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians (PPPP).

7

CONDUCT OF GENERAL ELECTIONS-2018

The 14th National Assembly of Pakistan completed its five years term and stood dissolved under Article 52 of the Constitution on 31st May, 2018. The Provincial Assemblies of all four Provinces also completed their respective terms of five years under Article 107 of the Constitution in May, 2018 and stood dissolved. The dates of expiry of the terms of the Assemblies are as under:

Provincial Assembly	Date of dissolution
Balochistan	31 st May, 2018
KP	28 th May, 2018
Punjab	31 st May, 2018
Sindh	28 th May, 2018

The Commission under section 57(1) of the Elections Act, 2017 moved a summary to the President of Pakistan, proposing any date between 25th July, 2018 to 27th July, 2018 for holding General Elections-2018 for National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies. Accordingly, the President approved 25th July, 2018 as polling day.

Mr. Justice (R) Nasir ul Mulk was appointed by the President as care-taker Prime Minister under Article 224 of the Constitution and accordingly he took oath on 01.06.2018. Likewise, appointments of caretaker Chief Ministers were made by Governors of respective Provinces in accordance with provisions of Articles 224 and 224A of the Constitution. Three Caretaker Chief Ministers (Punjab, Sindh and Khyber Pakhtunkhwa) were approved by the Commission. All Chief Secretaries/Inspector Generals were transferred. Officers in the provincial, civil and police departments were reshuffled to neutralize chances of political partisanship.

7.1 Appointment of DROs, ROs and AROs

Under sections 50 and 51 of the Elections Act, 2017, for conduct of General Elections-2018 in the country, DRO for each district, RO along with AROs for each constituency were appointed by the Commission on 7th May, 2018. The Chief Election Commissioner wrote to the Chief Justice of Pakistan for

requisitioning of services of judicial officers for election duties. Almost all DROs and ROs were from judiciary. Sessions judges were appointed as DROs and Additional and Senior Civil Judges as ROs. The detail is given as under:

Sr. No.	Province/area	District/agency	DROs	ROs			AROs		
				NA	PA	Total	NA	PA	Total
1	Balochistan	34	34	16	51	67	88	89	177
2	KP	27	25	39	99	138	78	198	276
3	Punjab	36	36	141	297	438	282	594	876
4	Sindh	29	27	61	130	191	122	260	382
5	FATA	8	8	12	-	12	24	-	24
6	Islamabad	1	1	3	-	3	6	-	6
Total		135	131	272	577	849	600	1,141	1,741

7.2 Notification of Election Programme

The Commission in terms of Article 224(1) of the Constitution read with section 57(2) of the Elections Act, 2017, called upon voters of National Assembly constituencies and Provincial Assemblies constituencies of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan to elect their representatives from each of these constituencies to general seats on 31st May, 2018 and the following dates were fixed therein for various activities of elections:

Sr. No.	Activity	Date (s)
1	Public notice to be issued by RO concerned	1.6.2018
2	Dates for filing of nomination papers with RO by candidates	2.6.2018 to 6.06.2018
3	Publication of names of nominated candidates	7.6.2018
4	Last date for scrutiny of nomination forms by RO	14.6.2018
5	Last date for filing of appeals against decisions of RO rejecting/accepting nomination papers	19.6.2018
6	Last date for deciding appeals by Appellate Tribunal	26.6.2018
7	Publication of revised list of candidates	27.6.2018
8	Last date for withdrawal of candidature and publication of revised list of candidates	28.6.2018
9	Allotment of election symbol to contesting candidates	29.6.2018
10	Polling day	25.7.2018

The above programme was also applicable to seats reserved for women and non-Muslims in National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

7.3 Filing of Nomination Papers

As per election programme, the date for filing of nomination papers with ROs by the candidates were from 2nd to 6th June, 2018. In the meantime, the Lahore High Court vide its order passed on 30th May, 2018 directed as under:

“The Impugned Forms do not provide for mandatory information and declarations as required by the Constitution and the law and the ECP is directed to ensure that all mandatory information and declarations are included in the Impugned Forms;

The ECP is empowered to add or improve Form A and Form B of the Act so as to fulfill its constitutional mandate of ensuring honest, just and fair elections.”

The Commission immediately appealed before the Supreme Court of Pakistan that the direction of the Lahore High Court could delay elections. The Supreme Court vide its order passed on 6th June, 2018 directed for submission of an Affidavit with the nomination form. The operative part of the order is as under:

“All candidates of the National and Provincial Assemblies shall file the said affidavit along with their Nomination Papers. Such candidates who have already filed their Nomination Papers, shall file the said Affidavit with the Returning Officers by or before 11th June, 2018.”

In view of the directions of the Apex Court as well as on the requests of the political parties, the Commission revised the election programme as below:

Sr. No.	Activity	Date(s)
1	Dates for filing of nomination papers with RO by candidates	4.6.2018 to 11.6.2018
2	Publication of names of nominated candidates	11.6.2018
3	Last date for scrutiny of nomination forms by RO	19.6.2018
4	Last date for filing of appeals against decisions of RO rejecting/accepting nomination papers	22.6.2018
5	Last date for deciding appeals by Appellate Tribunal	27.6.2018
6	Publication of revised list of candidates	28.6.2018
7	Last date for withdrawal of candidature and publication of revised list of candidates	29.6.2018
8	Allotment of election symbol to contesting candidates	30.6.2018
9	Polling day	25.7.2018

7.4 Scrutiny

The last date for scrutiny of nomination forms of candidates by RO was 07.06.2018. Under section 62(1) of the Elections Act, 2017, voter of a constituency was given right to file objections to candidature of a candidate of that constituency who was nominated or whose name was included in party list submitted by a political party for election to an Assembly before RO within period specified by the Commission for scrutiny of nomination papers of candidates contesting election to an Assembly. The detail of total nomination papers filed, rejected by RO or withdrawn by candidate for National Assembly or for a Provincial Assembly, is as under:

Province/area	Total nomination papers filed									
	National Assembly					Provincial Assembly				
	Filed	Accepted	Rejected	Withdrawn	Contesting candidates	Filed	Accepted	Rejected	Withdrawn	Contesting candidates
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Balochistan	435	380	55	87	287	1,447	1,181	266	325	943
KP	1,153	1,092	55	333	754	2,038	1,938	131	757	1,176
Punjab	2,620	2,357	263	712	1,599	6,671	6,067	604	2,018	3,969
Sindh	1,443	1,135	208	344	806	3,626	3,169	457	965	2,143
Total	5,651	4,964	581	1,476	3,446	13,782	12,355	1,458	4,065	8,231

Likewise, detail of nomination papers filed against seats reserved for women in National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies is as under:

Province	Nominations filed	Nominations accepted	Nominations Rejected	Withdrawn
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY				
Balochistan	35	16	19	0
KP	88	35	53	0
Punjab	236	73	163	0
Sindh	76	45	31	0
Total	435	169	266	0
PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES				
Balochistan	117	55	62	0
KP	262	79	183	0
Punjab	663	174	488	1
Sindh	213	91	122	0
Total	1,255	399	855	1

For non-Muslims in the National Assembly and the Provincial Assemblies the total nomination papers filed, accepted and rejected by the Returning Officer or withdrawn by the candidates:

Province	Nominations filed	Nominations accepted	Nominations rejected	Withdrawn
NATIONAL ASSEMBLY				
Whole country	154	44	101	9
PROVINCIAL ASSEMBLIES				
Balochistan	56	22	34	0
KP	73	20	53	0
Punjab	232	35	197	0
Sindh	110	39	71	0
Total	471	116	355	0

7.5 Scrutiny Facilitation Cell

Scrutiny of nomination papers needs to be carried out in an efficient manner within stipulated period. In order to facilitate the ROs during scrutiny process, the Commission established a "Scrutiny Facilitation Cell" at ECP Secretariat Islamabad by providing them necessary information/documents supplied by different organizations such as NADRA, State Bank of Pakistan, Federal Board of Revenue, National Accountability Bureau and Federal Investigation Agency, PTCL etc. The details of this Cell have been provided in Post-Election Review appended to this Annual Report.

7.6 Appointment of Appellate Tribunals

The Commission, under section 63 of the Elections Act, 2017 appointed Appellate Tribunals consisting of judges of High Courts in consultation with Chief Justices of High Courts concerned for all National Assembly constituencies and constituencies of Provincial Assemblies. The numbers of Appellate Tribunals so appointed by the Commission is as under:

Province	Place of sitting	No. of appellate tribunals
Balochistan	Quetta	2
KP	Peshawar, D.I. Khan, Abbottabad, Mingora/Swat, Bannu	6
Punjab	Rawalpindi, Lahore, Multan and Bahawalpur	8
Sindh	Karachi, Sukkur	4
Federal Capital	Islamabad	1
Total		21

The detail of appeals filed under section 63(1) of the Elections Act, 2017 by candidates/voters/objectors of constituencies against decision of RO made under section 62(9) in respect of acceptance or rejection of nomination paper of a candidate for General Seats and seats reserved for women and non-Muslims is as under:

Province	Number of appeals	Total number of appeals accepted	Total number of appeals rejected
Balochistan	254	166	88
KP	97	41	56
Punjab	539	90	449
Sindh	337	81	256

The decisions of Appellate Authority were challenged before different High Courts under Article 199 of the Constitution, the detail of which is given as under:

Sr. No.	Province	No. of writs	Accepted	Rejected
1	Balochistan	76	36	40
2	KP	NIL	NIL	NIL
3	Punjab	189	55	134
4	Sindh	141	3	138

7.7 Establishment of Polling Stations

The Commission issued comprehensive guidelines for DROs and ROs for preparation of lists of polling stations and polling personnel. The DROs finalized the list of polling stations after hearing objections/representation on draft list of polling stations published by the ROs. Subsequently the Commission issued timelines comprising various stages with regard to finalization lists of polling stations with effect from 14th May, 2018 to 25th June, 2018. The data of all polling stations was also published on the official website of the Commission for information of general public. The statistical data of polling stations is given below:

Province	Polling stations				Polling booths		
	Male	Female	Combined	Total	Male	Female	Total
Balochistan	1,329	1,140	2,077	4,546	6,908	5,426	12,334
KP/ FATA	4,610	3,970	5,947	14,527	24,856	18,298	43,154
Punjab/ Islamabad	13,317	12,601	22,341	48,259	72,006	60,144	132,150
Sindh	3,863	3,619	10,276	17,758	30,174	26,875	57,049
Grand total	23,119	21,330	40,641	85,090	133,944	110,743	244,687

7.8 Appointment of Polling Personnel

For conduct of proceedings at the polling stations on poll day, ROs appointed polling personnel at each polling station. The polling personnel were identified by the Commission through DECAs who established a data bank of all federal, provincial, autonomous, semi-autonomous bodies/institutions at district level. Comprehensive training/orientation was imparted to all polling personnel. Total number of polling personnel who performed their duties during General Elections-2018 is given below:

Province	Presiding Officers		Assistant Presiding Officers		Polling Officers	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Balochistan	3,406	1,140	13,816	10,852	6,908	5,426
KP/FATA	10,557	3,970	46,228	34,513	24,856	18,298
Punjab	35,658	12,601	142,607	119,000	72,006	60,144
Sindh	14,139	3,619	60,348	53,750	30,174	26,875
Sub-total	63,760	21,330	262,999	218,115	133,944	110,743
Total	85,090		481,114		244,687	
5% reserved staff	4,255		24,056		12,234	
Grand total	89,345		505,170		256,921	

7.9 Codes of Conduct

Section 233(1) of the Elections Act, 2017 provides that the Commission shall, in consultation with political parties, frame a Code of Conduct for political parties, contesting candidates, election agents and polling agents. Accordingly, for the purpose of effective and meaningful consultation with the political parties to frame Code of Conduct for General Elections-2018, the draft Code of Conduct was shared with them and was discussed in a consultative meeting of the Commission with major political parties held on 31st May, 2018. The representatives of political parties provided input on number of provisions of the draft and proposed various amendments which were incorporated in the draft and final Code of Conduct was notified on 14th June, 2018.



Consultative meeting with political parties



Consultative meeting with political parties

In pursuance of section 233(2) of the Elections Act, 2017 the Commission framed and issued codes of conduct for media, observers and polling personnel. Further, for the first time, the Commission also framed the Code of Conduct for security personnel and notified in official gazette.

7.10 Election Material

For conduct of successful election, timely procurement and supply of election material is one of the prerequisites. Election material, *inter alia*, includes printing of large quantity of ballot papers, forms, posters, placards, envelopes, duty badges and other documents as well as ballot boxes, voting screens, cloth bags, plastic seals, stamps of different kinds, stamp pads and indelible ink etc. Procurement of election material is a multi-stage process. First step is stock-

evaluation of available election material that helps in evaluating requirement of each district, division and Province. This evaluation provides basis for procurement of election material as well as financial resources. Second step is placing procurement orders by calling tenders through press from open market and government departments. Final procurement order is placed after quality check and through process of fair competition and in accordance with PPRA rules.

The critical stage is dispatch of election material from procurement agencies to ECP's offices throughout the country. The whole exercise is a race against time that involves extensive transportation from successful bidders/firms and Government presses to far-flung areas/districts, particularly Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

The Province-wise detail of election material procured for General Elections-2018 is given as under:

Sr. No.	Item	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Balochistan	Total
1	Transparent ballot boxes	68,326	76,757	46,846	10,310	202,239
2	Foldable screened-off compartment	180,679	86,157	71,494	16,100	354,430
3	Plastic seals	1,162,130	804,617	597,812	113,400	2,677,959
4	Non-woven cloth bag 24" × 30" (light green for NA)	53,655	20,041	15,765	5,072	94,533
5	Non-woven cloth bag 26" × 42" (light green for NA)	53,655	20,041	15,765	5,072	94,533
6	Non-woven cloth bag 24" × 30" (White for PA)	53,655	20,041	15,765	5,072	94,533
7	Non-woven cloth bag 26" × 42" (white for PA)	53,655	20,041	15,765	5,072	94,533
8	Non-woven cloth bag 26" × 42" (blue) for retrieval of material	53,655	20,041	15,765	5,072	94,533

Sr. No.	Item	Punjab	Sindh	KP	Balochistan	Total
9	Gunny bag (49" × 52") with 60" cord	20,439	3,818	3,003	966	28,226
10	Tamper evident bag-I 15 × 360 mm	449,684	167,965	132,123	42,504	792,276
11	Tamper evident bag-II 05 × 425 mm	1,848	661	506	226	3,241
12	Temper evident bag-III (non-woven cloth bag)	107,070	41,023	32,243	9,867	190,203
13	Standard stationery pack	53,655	20,041	15,765	5,072	94,533
14	Official code mark nylon stamps	334,892	165,080	137,826	29,560	667,358
15	Marking aid rubber stamps	371,280	221,905	174,342	41,876	809,403
16	Brass seals	20,622	15,605	11,932	4,927	53,086
17	indelible ink	244,000	93,065	79,625	22,370	439,060
18	Standardized ink stamp pad	327,000	132,356	111,302	35,000	605,658

Improvement/reforms in respect of election material: The Commission decided to introduce and improve the quality of various items of election material for General Elections 2018, the detail whereof is as under:

7.10.1 Foldable screened-off compartments

Since the material, carriage, life and storage of corrugated screened-off compartments was challenging and uneconomical, the Commission decided to use an alternate product with improved specifications and economic life for use in General Elections-2018. Accordingly, corrugated screened-off compartments were replaced with polypropylene and supplied to PECs.

7.10.2 Indelible ink

A voter, at time of casting vote, receives a personal mark of identification with indelible ink on his thumb/finger which is a legal requirement. For this purpose, specialized indelible ink was manufactured from the Pakistan Council for Scientific and Industrial Research Laboratories (PCSIR), Karachi.

7.10.3 Standard stationery pack

Considering the experience of General Elections-2013, the Commission improved the quality of Standard Stationery Pack used at the Polling Stations, containing the following 17 assorted items with addition of torch, gum stick and scotch tape:

Sr. No.	Description of Items	Quantity
1	Ball points (blue)	14
2	Rice paper (8 ½" × 13 ½") 40 GSM	20
3	Carbon paper (8 ½" × 13 ½")	5
4	Paper pins (25 pins in a pack)	1 packet
5	Steel needles (large 3 1/2" size)	1
6	Thread cotton balls (1/2 Oz) (white)	1
7	Gum stick (Dollar brand) (2 Oz)	1
8	Candle (20 grams each)	4
9	Sealing wax stick (red) (4 sticks in a pack weighing ½ lb)	1 packet
10	Matchbox	1
11	Steel scale (6")	8
12	Marker	1
13	Safety pins	15
14	Scissors (6")	1
15	Torch	1
16	Tape	1
17	Box plastic	1

7.10.4 Official code mark nylon stamps

Official code mark nylon stamps bear the words "Election Commission of Pakistan" and codes are engraved on each stamp. The use of official code mark stamps is mandatory under law as Assistant Presiding Officer is required

to stamp on the back of ballot paper as well as on counterfoil before issuing ballot to a voter. The codes appearing on the official code mark nylon stamps assigned to a polling station are kept secret to ensure transparency in the process. Previously rubber official code mark stamps were used at the polling stations.

7.10.5 Non-woven cloth bags

Five kinds of non-woven cloth bags were provided at each polling station. Two green-coloured bags for 'ballot papers' and 'election material' pertaining to the National Assembly whereas two white colour bags for Provincial Assemblies. A blue colour bag was also provided for retrieval of unused material. The quality and size of the bags was also improved along with colour matching with ballot papers.

7.10.6 Tamper-evident bags

To comply with the provisions of section 99 of the Elections Act, 2017 the Commission introduced a new tamper-evident bag for putting therein packets containing ballot papers and forms in respect of each polling station for preservation of the same in the strong rooms of the Commission.

7.11 Printed Material

A wide range of printed material is required for conduct of elections, which includes forms, registers, packets, posters, etc. In addition, various kinds of manuals, booklets and instructions are also required to be printed for guidance of DROs, ROs and polling personnel. As per practice, most of the material is printed afresh for conduct of general elections by appropriately incorporating therein all the amendments in law/rules made since last such election. The Elections Act, 2017 was promulgated on 2nd October, 2017 and the Election Rules, 2017 were framed and published by the Commission on 9th November, 2017 therefore all existing forms, packets, posters, registers etc. became obsolete hence, this time all these items were required to be printed afresh.

For General Elections-2018, requirement of printed material was worked out by the PECs due to enhanced number of polling stations/booths. Printing Corporation of Pakistan presses (PCP) at Islamabad, Lahore and Karachi were assigned the job of printing of aforesaid material and supply to all concerned.

7.12 Printing of Ballot Papers

Printing of ballot papers is yet another critical task accomplished by the Commission within given timeframe, i.e. 25 days including transportation from presses to the offices of ROs. Arrangements of special watermark paper for printing of ballot papers was determined on the basis of tentative registered voters. Time limitation was most sensitive factor in the process of printing of ballot papers. The printing job was entrusted to Government owned presses having infrastructure, resources and capability of completing job within stipulated schedule.

For conduct of General Elections-2018, ballot papers were required to be printed on “watermark paper” as per section 71(4) of the Elections Act, 2017. After a series of meetings with concerned authorities it was decided that “Level-II security paper having watermark” will be used for printing of ballot papers. Procurement of water mark security paper was assigned to National Security Printing Company, Karachi (NSPC) (Ministry of Finance) being sole authorized manufacturer/proprietor.

Procurement of water-marked paper for ballot papers was a major challenge for the Commission in view of its import from the UK and France and its transportation. Initially, the order was placed with a UK firm but, later, it was observed that it would not be able to handle the workload. By taking a prompt action, another firm in France was engaged but that too turned out to be problematic in view of labour protests in France. However, the Commission was able to overcome challenges by real-time adjustments in its procurement strategy and special measures for ensuring timely delivery.

The Commission issued an action plan with directions to the designated printing presses, i.e. the Printing Corporation of Pakistan (PCP)/Pakistan Post Foundation (PPF), Islamabad and NSPC, Karachi to make necessary arrangements for printing of allotted number of ballot papers. Details are as under:

Province/area	Number of ballot papers		Press where printed
	National Assembly	Provincial Assembly	
Federal Capital	805,400		PPF, Islamabad
Punjab Rawalpindi Division	36,180,600	35,189,400	PPF, Islamabad
Gujranwala Division			
Faisalabad Division			
Lahore Division			
Bahawalpur Division	23,139,200	17,487,300	NSPC, Karachi
Multan Division			
Sahiwal Division			
D.G. Khan Division			
Sargodha Division			
NA/PP	5,147,000	9,243,800	PCP, Islamabad
Sindh	23,277,600	24,004,400	NSPC, Karachi
KP/FATA	18,555,800	15,959,500	PCP, Islamabad
Balochistan	4,538,300	4,814,300	NSPC, Karachi
Total	111,643,900	106,698,700	
Grand total	218,342,600		

In order to ensure that ballot papers of each constituency of National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies are printed in requisite quantity according to Form-33 provided by ROs and safely reach respective destinations well in time, following measures were taken for printing of ballot papers:

- i. Mobilization advance was provided to designated Presses;
- ii. Fool-proof security arrangements were made at all Presses by deployment of armed/civil armed forces and entry of unauthorized persons was strictly prohibited;
- iii. The Power Division and concerned authorities were requested to ensure uninterrupted power supply to designated presses. Stand-by generators were also arranged at designated presses; and
- iv. Teams of officers of the Commission were deputed at each printing Press to supervise printing, packing and dispatch of ballot papers.

DROs were asked to depute their authorized representatives for taking delivery of ballot papers as per delivery schedule prepared by the Commission in consultation with Presses. The packing was undertaken in presence of authorized representatives of DROs and under supervision of officers of the

Commission. The ballot papers were dispatched under proper security of armed/civil armed troops under the supervision of representatives of DROs from printing presses to the offices of DROs.

In order to ensure timely transportation of ballot papers to remote destinations in Balochistan, the Ministry of Defence provided services of C-130 aircraft and IL-78 aircrafts. In addition, Pakistan International Airlines provided special cargo flights.

7.13 Postal Ballot Papers

The government employees along with their family members, prisoners, persons with disabilities who are unable to travel, polling personnel and security personnel are eligible to cast their votes through postal ballot. The process of casting vote through postal ballot is time bound, which necessitates separate time schedule to ensure that a vote cast through postal ballot is counted within stipulated time required for announcement of official result.

For the purpose of timely printing and dispatch of postal ballots, special instructions were issued to the NSPC Karachi. The Province-wise break-up of quantity of postal ballot papers printed is given below:

Province/area	National Assembly	Provincial Assembly
Balochistan	48,000	76,500
KP/FATA	153,000	148,500
Punjab/Federal Capital	432,000	445,500
Sindh	183,000	195,000
Total	816,000	865,500

7.14 Disposal of Complaints Received on Poll Day

In order to facilitate voters and stakeholders on polling day, the Commission established a Complaint Cell at the ECP Secretariat Islamabad consisting of 48 officers/officials to receive complaints. Wide publicity of 12 dedicated phone numbers and as many fax numbers of Complaint Cell were given in print and electronic media, for convenience of general public. In addition, three supervisory teams under chairmanship of Senior Officers of the Commission were also constituted to oversee working of Complaint Cell.



Citizens after casting their votes on 25th July, 2018

Complaint Cell remained operational without any break from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. on poll day. A total of 582 complaints were received in the Cell and grievances of complainants were redressed then and there. Province-wise break-up of complaints so received is given below:

Sr. No.	Province/area	No. of complaints
1	Balochistan	44
2	KP, including FATA	54
3	Punjab including Islamabad	242
4	Sindh	242
Total		582

7.15 Post-Poll Complaints Before the Commission

Article 219 (c) of the Constitution empowers the Commission to appoint Election Tribunals to decide disputes arising out of elections. Dispute resolution is an important part of an election process which helps aggrieved persons to seek redressal of their grievances. The Commission is also empowered under section 9(4) of the Elections Act, 2017 to act as an Election Tribunal, either on its own motion by conducting an enquiry or on an application/petition of an aggrieved party to resolve election disputes. The petitions filed under section 9(4) *ibid* were disposed of by the Commission

within 60 days in accordance with section 9(3) of the Elections Act, 2017. The detail of petitions is as under:

Petitions filed under section 9 of the Elections Act, 2017		
Filed	Disposed of	Pending
152	152	0

7.16 Election Observers

Section 238 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides that the Commission may allow any domestic or international election observation organization to observe the process of conduct of election, having an access to polling station, counting of votes and consolidation of result. In this regard, the Commission after consultation with 'Domestic Observers' Organizations, and Civil Society Organizations, formulated Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for domestic Observers. Similarly, the Commission also formulated SOP for International Observers in consultation with Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Interior.

International observers from the Commonwealth, European Union and other organizations consisting of 414 members observed elections whereas 29,810 domestic observers including media persons also observed the election process. The Commission issued accreditation cards to all observers through which they were able to observe the polling process at polling stations. For the first time, the Commission issued accreditation cards to persons with disabilities, women and transgender persons.

7.17 Security Arrangements

Prior to General Elections-2018, several incidents of political and electoral violence took place targeting political parties, party leaders, candidates and election officials which caused short-term effects on election campaign in some parts of the country. The bomb attacks in campaign events in district Mastung, Peshawar and D. I. Khan, resulted in deaths of contesting candidates along with their supporters. Similarly, National Counter Terrorism Authority (NACTA) had time and again, raised with the Commission the issue of increased level of potential threats to political leaders and candidates and dozens of such threat alerts were received in the Commission.

In view of volatile security situation in the country, the Commission in exercise of its powers under Articles 218(3), 220 and 245 of the Constitution directed Ministries of Defence and Interior for deployment of Armed Forces/Civil Armed Forces for the conduct of General Elections-2018 and as such, approximately 371,000 Armed/Civil Armed Forces personnel were deployed inside and outside polling stations to maintain law and order for provision of secure environment as per Code of Conduct for security officials issued by the Commission in line with provisions of section 233(2) of the Elections Act, 2017. In addition to this, in compliance with the provisions of sub-section 12 of section 59 of the Elections Act, 2017, CCTV cameras were got installed in 17,007 highly sensitive polling stations to monitor and record the proceedings.

Fool-proof security arrangements for General Elections-2018 resulted in reduction in complaints of voting fraud at polling stations and the polling process culminated smoothly on the polling day.

7.18 Appointment of Election Tribunals

For trial and disposal of Election Petitions arising out of General Elections-2018, the Commission under Article 219 (c) of the Constitution and section 140 of the Elections Act, 2017 in consultation with Chief Justice of High Court concerned, appointed Elections Tribunals for each Province on 15.08.2018, the detail whereof is as under:

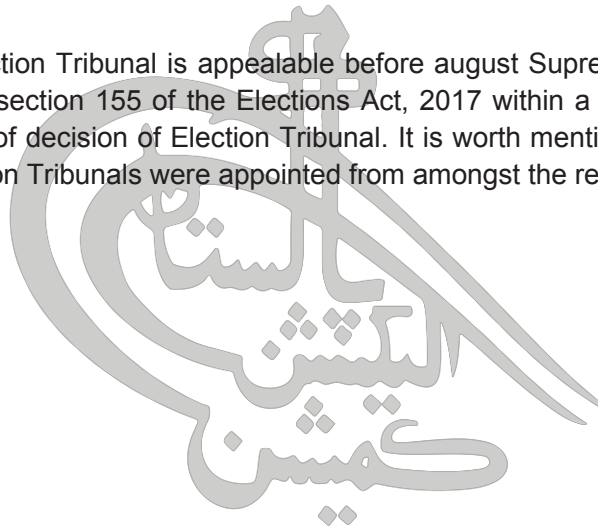
Province	Place of sitting	Number of Election Tribunals
Balochistan	Quetta	3
KP	Peshawar, D.I. Khan, Abbottabad, Mingora/Swat, Bannu	5
Punjab	Rawalpindi, Lahore, Multan and Bahawalpur	8
Sindh	Karachi, Sukkur	4
Federal Capital	Islamabad	1
Total		21

Under Article 225 of the Constitution read with section 139 of the Elections Act, 2017, no election to a House or a Provincial Assembly shall be called in question except by an Election Petition presented to the Election Tribunal.

Election petitions were filed before Election Tribunals within 45 days of publication in official Gazette the names of the returned candidates as prescribed in section 142 of the Elections Act, 2017. The Province-wise details of all Election Petitions belonging to National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies filed under section 139 of the Elections Act, 2017 and decisions of the Tribunals thereon is as under:

Province	General seats	Pending	Dismissed/disposed of
Balochistan	55	43	12
KP	33	14	19
Punjab	135	89	46
Sindh	79	70	9
Total	302	216	86

Decision of Election Tribunal is appealable before august Supreme Court of Pakistan under section 155 of the Elections Act, 2017 within a period of 30 days from date of decision of Election Tribunal. It is worth mentioning that in 2013, the Election Tribunals were appointed from amongst the retired judges.



8

CONDUCT OF PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

Article 219 of the Constitution states that, *inter alia*, holding of election to the office of the President shall be the duty of Election Commission. During the year 2018, election to office of the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was also due as incumbent President's term was going to expire on 8th September, 2018 and election to office of president was required to be held before expiration of said term.

Under Article 41 of the Constitution, election to office of President has to be held not earlier than 60 days and not later than 30 days before expiration of term of President in office. As such election was to be held between 10th July, 2018 and 9th August, 2018. Article 41 further defines Electoral College for election to office of President of Pakistan which consists of Members of Parliament and Members of Provincial Assembly of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

The General Elections-2018 were held on 25th July 2018 and notification of returned candidates on general seats and reserved seats were issued on 7th August, 2018 and 11th August, 2018 respectively. Therefore, due to non-existence of electoral college, election to office of President was not possible to be held till 9th August, 2018. However, proviso of the Article 41(4) provides that if election cannot be held within period mentioned above because of dissolution of National Assembly it shall be held within 30 days of general elections. As general elections were held on 25th July, 2018. The said 30 days' time limit was to expire on 23rd August, 2018. After issuance of notifications of returned candidates first session of National Assembly was held on 13th August 2018 whereas first session of Provincial Assembly of Punjab was held on 15th August, 2018 while first sessions of Assemblies of Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan were held on 13th August, 2018. Therefore, after completion of Electoral College, for conduct of election to office of President the Commission had only six days and that period was too short to complete various stages of presidential election. Resultantly, by invoking Article 254 of the Constitution, the date of poll for election to the office of the President was fixed as 4th September, 2018 so that election process could be completed before expiration of term of office of incumbent President.

8.1 ROs and Presiding Officers

The detailed procedure for conduct of election to office of President is provided in Second Schedule of the Constitution. Under Paragraph 1 of second schedule, the Commission is responsible for holding and conducting election to office of President and Chief Election Commissioner shall be RO for election. Responsibility of appointment of Presiding Officers also rests with Election Commission. In pursuance of these provisions, the Commission appointed Chief Justices of respective High Courts as Presiding Officers to preside meetings of members of Parliament and Provincial Assemblies on poll day. The detail of appointment is as under:

Sr. No.	House/assembly	Presiding Officer
1	(a) Senate of Pakistan, Islamabad (b) National Assembly of Pakistan, Islamabad	Hon'ble Chief Justice, Islamabad High Court, Islamabad
2	Provincial Assembly of Punjab, Lahore	Hon'ble Chief Justice, Lahore High Court, Lahore
3	Provincial Assembly of Sindh, Karachi	Hon'ble Chief Justice, High Court of Sindh, Karachi
4	Provincial Assembly of KP, Peshawar	Hon'ble Chief Justice, Peshawar High Court, Peshawar
5	Provincial Assembly of Balochistan, Quetta	Hon'ble Chief Justice, Balochistan High Court, Quetta

8.2 Election Programme

Paragraph 3 of second schedule of the Constitution empowers Chief Election Commissioner to fix time and place for filing nomination papers, holding a scrutiny, making withdrawal, if any, and hold poll. The Chief Election Commissioner while exercising his power through public notification issued election programme on 16th August, 2018.

For assistance of prospective candidates, a booklet was compiled containing relevant provisions of the Constitution and the Presidential Election Rules, 1988 along with details of election programme etc. The booklet was made available free of cost in offices of the RO as well as the Presiding Officers.

8.3 Filing of Nomination Papers

As per election programme, twelve persons filed nomination papers within the period fixed for filing of nomination papers, i.e. 27th August, 2018 (up to 12:00 p.m.). Three nomination papers were filed by Mr. Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi so total 14 nominations were filed before Presiding Officers. Out of 14 nominations, 6 nominations were filed with Chief Justice of Islamabad High Court, 1 nomination was filed with Chief Justice of Peshawar High Court, 5 nominations were filed with Chief Justice of Lahore High Court and 2 nominations were filed with Chief Justice of High Court of Sindh. Detail of nomination papers filed is as under:

Sr. No.	Names of persons nominated	Number of nomination papers filed	Place of filing of nomination papers
1	Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan	1	Islamabad
2	Mr. Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi	3	1 at Islamabad, 2 at Karachi
3	Mr. Fazl-ur-Rehman	1	Islamabad
4	Mr. Amir Muqam	1	Islamabad
5	Mr. Waheed Ahmed Kamal	1	Islamabad
6	Mr. Muhammad Ayub	1	Islamabad
7	Mr. Mir Afzal	1	Peshawar
8	Mr. Muhammad Shahbaza Khan	1	Lahore
9	Mr. Imran Ahmad	1	Lahore
10	Mr. Sarfraz Quresh	1	Lahore
11	Mr. Muhammad Haneef	1	Lahore
12	Mr. Muhammad Ashfaq	1	Lahore
Total		14	

On 29.08.2018, under paragraph 5 of Second Schedule to the Constitution read with Rule 5 of Presidential Elections Rules 1988, the Chief Election Commissioner being RO examined all nomination papers filed by 12 candidates for presidential elections in presence of candidates or their nominated agents along with proposer and seconder and as a result thereof nomination papers of eight candidates were rejected whereas nominations of following candidates were accepted during scrutiny process.

1. Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan
2. Mr. Amir Muqam
3. Mr. Arif-ur-Rehman Alvi
4. Maulana Fazal-ur-Rehman

Only one candidate, namely Mr. Amir Muqam withdrew his candidature and following candidates contested the election to Office of President.

1. Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan
2. Mr. Arif ur Rehman Alvi
3. Maulana Fazl ur Rehman

8.4 Guidance of Voters

For guidance of voters (who are members of the Parliament and Provincial Assemblies), the Commission issued pamphlets namely “How to Vote” which contained guidelines and procedure for marking of ballot paper. Sufficient number of pamphlets were provided to the Secretary of each House of the Parliament and respective Provincial Assemblies for further circulation to voters.

8.5 Polling for the Presidential Election

The polling for election to the office of President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan was held simultaneously on 4th September, 2018 from 10.00 a.m. to 4.00 p.m. at Parliament House Islamabad and Provincial Assemblies of Punjab, Sindh, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and Balochistan.

Immediately after the polling hours, counting process commenced simultaneously by Presiding Officers in presence of candidates or their agents and the media also witnessed the proceedings. After completion of counting, the result at the respective polling station was announced and candidates or their agents were provided copies of Form-V (Result of the Count) prepared by Presiding Officers. On completion of counting process at polling stations, the result including ballot papers was sent to Chief Election Commissioner/RO. Summary of result of count prepared by Presiding Officer in respect of five polling stations is given below:

Sr. No.	House/assembly	Total votes polled	Invalid votes	Valid votes
1	Parliament House, Islamabad	430	6	424
2	Provincial Assembly of Punjab, Lahore	351	18	333
3	Provincial Assembly of Sindh, Karachi	158	1	157
4	Provincial Assembly of KP, Peshawar	111	2	109
5	Provincial Assembly of Balochistan, Quetta	60	0	60

8.6 Counting by RO

As required under rule 28 of the Presidential Election Rules 1988, the RO recounts the ballot papers by opening the packets received by him in presence of such contesting candidates or their representatives as may be present. For this purpose, all contesting candidates were, through notice, informed that the count will be held on 5th September, 2018 at 11:00 a.m. at the ECP Secretariat, Islamabad. Each valid vote was recounted and each invalid vote was examined. During recount/re-examination of ballot papers, two ballot papers which were excluded from count by the Presiding Officer of the Punjab Assembly were declared valid whereas three ballot papers which were counted by the Presiding Officer of the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Assembly were declared invalid by the RO in the presence of the polling agents of contesting candidates.

8.7 Declaration of Result

After completion of process final result was prepared as per procedure laid down in Para 18 of Second Schedule and the formula given therein. The final result was prepared on Form-VII wherein Mr. Arif Ur Rehman Alvi obtained highest number of votes whereas Mr. Fazl Ur Rehman remained runner-up and Mr. Aitzaz Ahsan secured third position by obtaining 352, 184 and 124 votes respectively. After preparation of result, the same was sent to Federal Government for declaration thereof by Notification in terms of Para 21 of Second Schedule of the Constitution.

9

TRAININGS OF ELECTION OFFICIALS

Training is one of the essential components of an activity as it enhances capacity and provides requisite technical skills for efficient disposal of required assignment. Significance of training increases manifold in view of huge activity of general elections, which involves engagement of large numbers of polling staff.

Trainings in ECP have always remained a permanent feature but it achieved a renewed impetus after observations of the “General Elections-2013 Inquiry Commission” (GEIC) which stated that there was lack of Planning, Training, Coordination and Monitoring and Coordination in General Elections-2013. In order to overcome shortcomings pointed out by the GEIC, the Commission took a number of initiatives. The major initiative in respect of training was establishment of a separate Training wing headed by an Additional Secretary and revival of Federal Election Academy (FEA). ECP conducted a number of rigorous and extensive Capacity Building courses for its officers and staff in anticipation of General Elections-2018.

9.1 Training of ECP Officers and Officials

Federal Election Academy (FEA) arranged a six-week Electoral Management Course (EMC) for 191 officers of BPS 17–19 in seven batches. In addition, seven days training to 600 officials in BPS 8–16 was also arranged by FEA. The effort aimed at building capacities of ECP staff before elections.



EMC training at FEA



Leadership training at LUMS, Lahore



BRIDGE training on legal framework



Training of ECP officials in BPS 8–16 at FEA

9.2 Training of Polling Staff for General Elections-2018

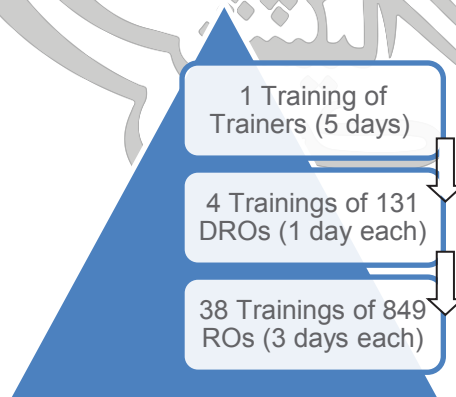
Polling staff was drawn from government departments (federal/provincial, autonomous bodies, corporations etc.) during General Elections-2018, therefore an elaborate training plan was prepared by training wing in collaboration with Provincial Election Commissioners and development partners [United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Development Alternatives Incorporated (DAI)]. The training material was also developed with the assistance of the aforesaid development partners. UNDP supported trainings in Punjab and Balochistan and DAI-Tabeer in Sindh and KP.

As compared to General Elections-2013, the scope and duration of trainings organized for Election Officials was enhanced in General Elections-2018. Training duration for ROs was increased from 02 days to 03 days and for Presiding Officers and Senior Assistant Presiding Officers from 01 day to 02 days. Further, the scope of these trainings was also extended to Assistant Presiding Officers and Polling Officers in the form of a half day orientation session. In total, more than 0.85 million polling staff were trained for the conduct of General Elections-2018.

A Course Review Committee, headed by Additional Secretary (TRE) consisting of senior and experienced officers of ECP and experts from development partners, developed following training tools for General Elections-2018:

- i. Handbooks, manuals and leaflets;
- ii. Presentation charts (due to multimedia and electricity issues);
- iii. Lectures;
- iv. Interactive sessions/groupwork;
- v. Practical exercises;
- vi. Mock exercise demonstrating whole polling process; and
- vii. Video/visual aids.

A total of 131 DROs and 849 ROs were appointed throughout Pakistan to take care of each district/constituency (National/Provincial). For training of DROs and ROs, 42 (4 + 38) trainings were organized at divisional level. Keeping in view supervisory role of DROs their trainings were of one day, whereas trainings of ROs spanned a period of three days. Methodology adopted for these trainings is explained in the pyramid below:



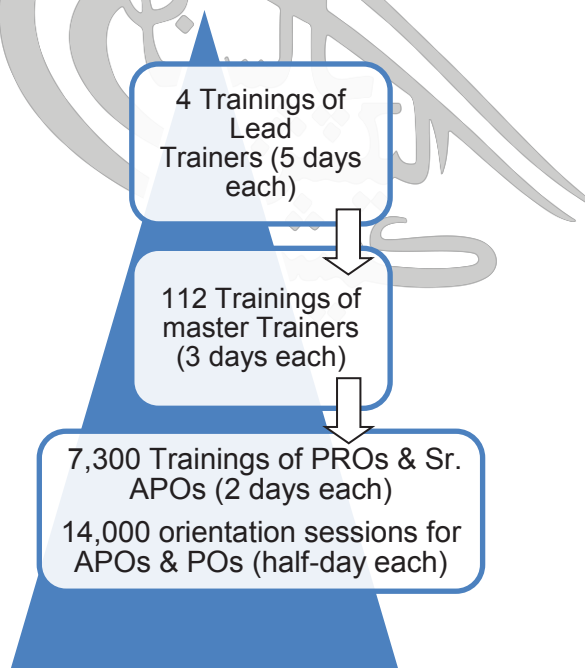
The curriculum for these trainings included information on election processes, i.e. appointment of polling staff, finalization of polling stations, assignment of voters to polling stations, packing of election material, transportation plan,

communication and security plan, result collection and its tabulation and transmission to ECP.

Trainings of Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers and Polling officers were designed on cascade pattern. In first phase, Lead Trainers from ECP (Officers in BPS 17–19) were trained in five-day trainings held at all four Provincial Headquarters. Participants during their presentation were assessed by senior trainers of ECP and qualified trainers were allowed to proceed further to conduct trainings.

In second phase, 2,644 Master Trainers were chosen by DEC's keeping in view their qualification, previous election experience, etc. They were trained by Lead Trainers at the district level and a total of 112 ToMTs were held for the purpose.

In third and final phase, trainings of Presiding Officers and Sr. APOs and Orientation Sessions for Polling officers and Assistant Presiding Officers were conducted. Master Trainers imparted training to almost 183,407 Presiding Officers and Sr. APOs and oriented almost 670,812 APOs and Polling Officers.



Armed/Civil Armed Forces were deployed at all polling stations to ensure peaceful environment. In order to ensure that they are well aware of their Do's and Don'ts, it was considered necessary that they should be well conversant with polling process and apprised of their roles and responsibilities at polling stations. The Commission framed Code of Conduct for security personnel under section 233 of the Elections Act, 2017 which was published in official gazette. It was for the first time that security forces worked under a notified Code of Conduct. With this aim, 28 Trainings were held at 14 venues to train 1,400 Master Trainers of Armed/Civil Armed Forces.

Under Article 51(5) of the Constitution, delimitation becomes obligatory after every census. As census was conducted in year 2017 and the provisional figures were published by Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, therefore delimitation became mandatory before General Elections-2018. Biggest challenge for timely general elections was delimitation of constituencies because of the 6th National Census held in 2017. Considering that less than a year remained in the elections and though the Elections Act, 2017 had been promulgated on 2nd October, 2017, the related Constitutional amendment had to be passed enabling the Commission to commence the work relating to delimitation. The Commission took up the issue with the Parliament and 24th Constitutional amendment was passed on 24th December, 2017. For this purpose, five Delimitation Committees were constituted to demarcate new constituencies throughout Pakistan. A three-day BRIDGE training was organized for members of these Delimitation Committees in Islamabad.



Group photo from a BRIDGE training in April 2017

A brief sketch of trainings discussed above is given below:

Sr. No.	Type of training	Election officials trained			Duration	Timeline
		Male	Female	Total		
1	Training of Lead Trainers (ToLT)	79	5	84	5 days	2 weeks, 19 Feb–9 March, 2018
2	Training of Master Trainers (ToMT)	1,718	926	2,644	3 days	3 weeks, 2–22 April, 2018
3	Training of Trainers for DRO and RO trainings	26	0	26	5 days	1 week, 7–11 May, 2018
4	Delimitation committee	37	1	38	3 days	3 days
5	Training of DROs	127	4	131	1 day	2 days, 15–16 May, 2018
6	Training of ROs	836	13	849	3 days	2 weeks, 17–30 May, 2018
7	Orientation sessions	395,779	275,033	670,812	Half day	3 weeks, 23 April–15 May, 2018
8	Trainings of security personnel	1,400	-	1,400	3 days	1 week, 26 June–1 July, 2018
9	Training of Presiding Officers: Sr. Asstt. Presiding Officer	135,721	47,686	183,407	2 days	3 weeks, 25 June–15 July, 2018
Total		535,723	323,668	859,391		

All above mentioned trainings were based on adult learning techniques which included interactive discussions, presentations and mock poll exercises. To remove chances of any flaws during election process practical exercises on

counting process using dummy ballot papers and filling of Form 45 (Result of Count) and Form 46 (Ballot Paper Account) were conducted multiple times during trainings. To add visual impact to learning process during trainings, a comprehensive video encompassing all phases of elections was also shown to polling personnel. Moreover, handbooks and training videos were not only provided to polling personnel during trainings, but were also uploaded to the ECP's website for easy access to all concerned as and when required.

* * * * *



10

CONDUCT OF BYE-ELECTIONS (NA/PP)

Under Article 219(b) of the Constitution, it is the duty of the Election Commission to conduct election to fill casual vacancies in the National and the Provincial Assemblies. Article 224(4) of the Constitution provides period for conduct of bye-elections. An election to fill a seat is held within sixty days from occurrence of vacancy. General Elections-2018 were held on 25.07.2018 after National Assembly and Provincial Assemblies completed their five-year terms.

Bye-elections held during 2018 are categorized in two parts, firstly bye-elections subsequent to General Elections-2013, secondly bye-elections held after General Elections-2018.

10.1 Bye-elections Held Before General Elections-2018

In pursuance of provisions of Article 224(4) of the Constitution, an election to a vacant seat from National/Provincial Assembly is required to be held within sixty days from occurrence of vacancy if seat becomes vacant not later than one hundred and twenty days before the term of that assembly is due to expire. Accordingly, bye-elections subsequent to General Elections-2013 were held in the following National/Provincial Assembly constituencies during the year 2018.

Sr. No.	No. and name of constituency	Cause of vacancy	Date of poll
1	PP-20 Chakwal-I	Death	09.01.2018
2	NA-154 Lodhran-I	De-notification	12.02.2018
3	PP-30 Sargodha-III	Death	04.03.2018
4	PS-07 Ghotki-III	Death	05.03.2018

The detailed below constituencies became vacant before expiration of term of National Assembly/Provincial Assemblies but bye-election on these constituencies were not held as vacancies occurred within period of 120 days before expiry of term of respective assemblies.

Sr. No.	No. and name of constituency	Cause of vacancy
1	PS-16 Jacobabad-cum-Kashmore (Old Jacobabad-IV)	Death
2	NA-172 D.G. Khan-II	Resignation
3	PP-196 Multan-III	Resignation
4	PS-58 Badin-II	Resignation
5	NA-204 Larkana-I	Death
6	NA-98 Gujranwala-IV	Resignation
7	NA-153 Multan-VI	Resignation
8	NA-194 Rahim Yar Khan-III	Resignation
9	NA-179 Muzaffargarh-IV	Resignation

10.2 Bye-elections Held After General Elections-2018

The polling for general elections was held on 25th July, 2018 and names of returned candidates were notified in the official gazette on 7th August, 2018. Likewise, names of returned candidates in respect of seats reserved for women and non-Muslim in National Assembly and all Provincial Assemblies were notified on 11.08.2018. Thereafter, all Assemblies convened their meetings wherein elected members took oath. Many members, who were elected from multiple seats, resigned from all seats except one they took oath from as required under Article 223 of the Constitution. Further, the election in detailed below constituencies could not be held on 25.07.2018 due to the reasons given against each:

Sr. No.	No. and name of constituency	Reason for termination of election
1	NA-60 Rawalpindi-IV	In order to provide a level playing field to candidates, election proceedings were terminated by the Commission
2	NA-103 Faisalabad-III	Death of a contesting candidate
3	PP-87 Mianwali-III	Death of a contesting candidate
4	PP-103 Faisalabad-VII	Death of a contesting candidate
5	PK-99 D.I. Khan	Death of a contesting candidate
6	PK-78 Peshawar-XIII	Death of a contesting candidate
7	PS-87 Malir-I	Death of a contesting candidate
8	PB-35 Mastung	Death of a contesting candidate

The Commission issued election programme on 17.08.2018 for conduct of bye-election in 40 constituencies. The polling was held on 14.10.2018 in 37 constituencies whereas polling in 3 constituencies was held on 21.10.2018. The details are given in the following table:

Sr. No.	No. and name of constituency	Cause of vacancy	Date of poll
Provincial Assembly Balochistan			
1	PB-35 Mastung	Due to death of contesting candidate	14.10.2018
2	PB-40 Khuzdar-III	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
Provincial Assembly KP			
1	PK-3 Swat-II	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
2	PK-7 Swat-VI	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
3	PK-44 Swabi-II	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
4	PK-53 Mardan-VI	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
5	PK-61 Nowshera-I	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
6	PK-64 Nowshera-IV	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
7	PK-71 Peshawar-VI	Resignation tendered by Shah Farman	21.10.2018
8	PK-78 Peshawar-XIII	Due to death of contesting candidate	14.10.2018
9	PK-97 D.I. Khan-III	Under Article 223	14.10.2018

Sr. No.	No. and name of constituency	Cause of vacancy	Date of poll
10	PK-99 D.I. Khan-V	Due to death of contesting candidate	14.10.2018
Provincial Assembly Punjab			
1	PP-3 Attock-III	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
2	PP-27 Jhelum-III	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
3	PP-87 Mianwali-III	Due to death of contesting candidate	14.10.2018
4	PP-103 Faisalabad-VII	Due to death of contesting candidate	14.10.2018
5	PP-118 T.T. Singh-I	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
6	PP-164 Lahore-XXI	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
7	PP-165 Lahore-XXII	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
8	PP-201 Sahiwal-VI	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
9	PP-222 Multan-XII	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
10	PP-261 R.Y. Khan-VII	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
11	PP-272 Muzaffargah-V	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
12	PP-292 D.G. Khan-VIII	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
13	PP-296 Rajanpur-IV	Due to death of returned candidate	14.10.2018
Provincial Assembly Sindh			
1	PS-30 Khairpur-V	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
2	PS-87 Malir-I	Due to death of contesting candidate	14.10.2018
3	PS-111 Karachi South-V	Resignation tendered by Imran Ismail	21.10.2018
National Assembly of Pakistan			
1	NA-35 Bannu	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
2	NA-53 Islamabad-II	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
3	NA-56 Attock-II	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
4	NA-60 Rawalpindi-IV	Due to postponement by the Commission	14.10.2018
5	NA-63 Rawalpindi-VII	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
6	NA-65 Chakwal-II	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
7	NA-69 Gujrat-II	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
8	NA-103 Faisalabad-III	Due to death of contesting candidate	14.10.2018
9	NA-124 Lahore-II	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
10	NA-131 Lahore-IX	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
11	NA-243 Karachi East-II	Under Article 223	14.10.2018
12	NA-247 Karachi South-II	Resignation tendered by Mr. Arif Alvi	21.10.2018

After conduct of said bye-elections, Houses of all Assemblies were got completed. Thereafter, three additional bye-elections were held due to disqualification or death of returned candidates. The detail of these bye-elections is given as under:

Sr. No.	No. and name of constituency	Cause of vacancy	Date of poll
1	PP-168 Lahore-XXV	Article 223 of the Constitution	13.12.2018
2	PB-47 Kech-III	De-notification	6.12.2018
3	PB-26 Quetta-III	Disqualification	31.12.2018



11

ESTABLISHING OF MONITORING SYSTEM

The “General Elections-2013 Inquiry Commission” constituted to inquire into the allegations of rigging in General Elections-2013 in its Final Report dated 22nd July 2015, *inter alia*, observed that there was lack of monitoring mechanism in the said election and recommended that the Commission should enhance its capacity in areas namely training, monitoring, planning and coordination. Keeping in view the recommendations of the Inquiry Commission, the Commission underwent an administrative reshuffle and constituted a National Coordination Committee under the chairmanship of the Chief Election Commissioner, a Planning Committee under the chairmanship of Secretary ECP and a “Monitoring wing” headed by Director General (Administration). Besides, two separate tiers for “Training and Evaluation” and “Budget, Administration and Elections” headed by Additional Secretaries were also established. Further, the Parliament provided in the Elections Act, 2017 for preparation of an Action Plan by the Commission and a mechanism to monitor implementation thereof.

For effective implementation of provisions of section 234 of the Elections Act, 2017 the Commission devised a mechanism for monitoring of election campaign of candidates and political parties.

According to this mechanism, the Deputy Commissioner of each district was nominated and appointed as District Monitoring Officer (DMO). Monitoring teams comprising two members were appointed to monitor election campaign in each provincial assembly constituency as well as corresponding area of national assembly constituency and report violation of any provision of the Elections Act, 2017, the Election Rules, 2017 and Code of Conduct to the DMO. Province-wise number of District Monitoring Officers and Monitoring teams appointed for monitoring of election campaign during General Elections-2018 is as under:

Sr. No.	Province/area	District Monitoring Officers	Monitoring teams
1	Balochistan	31	51
2	KP	27	99
3	Punjab	36	297
4	Sindh	29	130
5	FATA	8	12
6	ICT	1	3
Total		132	592

Province-wise summary of violations, warnings issued and fine imposed by DMOs is hereunder:

Province/area	Violations	Warnings issued	Fines imposed	Approx. banners, hoardings and flexes removed	Disciplinary action
Balochistan	248	15	4	19580	1
KP	2,150	51	4	45,671	1
Punjab and ICT	8,120	342	86	223,000	7
Sindh	3,293	107	5	71,137	7
Total	13,811	515	99	359,388	16

Prior to conduct of General Elections-2018, bye-elections held in PP-20 Chakwal-I, PP-30 Sargodha-III, NA-154 Lodhran-I and PS-7 Ghotki-III and 39 bye-elections held after General Elections-2018 were also monitored under the law. Province-wise summary of violations and fine imposed by DMOs during bye-elections is given below:

Province/area	Violations	Fines imposed	Approx. banners, hoardings and flexes removed
Balochistan	0	0	0
KP	1	0	1
Punjab and ICT	1,112	12	1,112
Sindh	0	2	0
Total	1,113	14	1,113

The monitoring teams reported violations and prompt actions were taken by DMOs thus monitoring of election campaign process of candidates and political parties was successfully carried out.

* * * * *



12 GENDER MAINSTREAMING

Goals 8 and 9 of the Commission's 2nd Five-Year Strategic Plan (2014–2018) provide that elections can only be conducted in a free, fair and impartial manner if equal opportunities are provided to all segments of the society for participation in electoral processes. Article 25 of the Constitution says that all citizens are equal before law and there is no discrimination on the basis of sex. Article 7 of Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) says that signatory countries shall take all appropriate measures to eliminate discrimination against women in the political and public life of the country and in particular, shall ensure to women, on equal terms with men, the right:

- i. to vote in all elections and public referenda and to be eligible for election to all publicly elected bodies;
- ii. to participate in the formulation of government policy and the implementation thereof and to hold public office and perform all public functions at all levels of governments;
- iii. to participate in non-governmental organizations and associations concerned with the public and political life of the country.

Article 3 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights states that signatory countries shall ensure equal rights of men and women to enjoyment of all civil and political rights set forth therein. Article 9 of Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities reiterates to enable persons with disabilities to live independently and participate fully in all aspects of life.

12.1 Campaign for Female Voter Registration

Women constitute approximately 48.76% of total population in Pakistan and their participation in political process without prejudice is a core component of inclusive electoral process. Lately, there has been a growing recognition of need to enhance women participation as voters and candidates. The Elections Act, 2017 amply addresses both issues whereby it mentions special measures for enrolment of women voters where variations in disaggregated data of registered voters is more than ten percent in a constituency; the Commission shall take special measures to reduce such variation. In furtherance of the Strategic Plan, the Commission established a Gender wing to take initiatives

for mainstreaming women, persons with disabilities, minorities and other marginalized groups to make electoral processes all inclusive.

The data analysis of electoral rolls reflected a gap of male and female registered voters in Pakistan, which increased from 10.97 million in March 2013 to 12.17 million in mid-2016. This gap of 12.17 million is because of the gap between men and women NIC registration with NADRA.

The Commission engaged political parties, NADRA and civil society organizations to bridge the gap between male and female voter registration. The Chief Election Commissioner wrote letters to heads of all political parties represented in the Parliament to take initiatives and focus on women voter registration at their end. The Commission also arranged presentations on the issue for Standing Committees of the National Assembly and the Senate. Besides, various consultative meetings were held with civil society during Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group meetings at provincial level and same issue was also highlighted during District Voter Education Committee (DVECs) meetings in all districts.

The Commission launched a comprehensive 'Female NIC and Voter Registration Campaign' for issuance of women NICs in collaboration with NADRA so that their votes could be registered accordingly. First phase of the campaign started in July 2017 whereby NADRA was asked to prioritize issuance of women NICs. NADRA announced fee waiver for the first-time issuance of women NICs and also offered incentives to its employees for female NIC issuance. Second campaign was formally launched by the Chief Election Commissioner on 4th December, 2017 with a goal to increase number of women voters on electoral rolls in order to decrease the gender gap. The Commission coordinated with Trust for Democratic Education and Accountability (TDEA) and NADRA for the said Campaign to maximize issuance of NICs to eligible women missing from NADRA NIC list and electoral rolls. Total 103 districts were covered under said campaign. Through these campaigns and revision of electoral rolls, the Commission was able to register 4.3 million female NICs and female voters from October 2017 to 30th April, 2018.



گفتگو



Dialogue with parliamentarians on women registration



The Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner launching the campaign on 4th December, 2017

The detail of region-wise districts that were covered during the campaign is tabulated hereunder:

Sr. No.	Region	Number of districts	District
1	Balochistan	13	Jaffarabad, Kachi, Kalat, Lasbela, Loralai, Mastung, Nasirabad, Pishin, Nushki, Sibi and Zhob + (Killa Abdullah and Quetta)
2	KP	24	Abbotabad, Bannu, Batagram, Buner, Charsada, Chitral, Haripur, Karak, Kohat, Kohistan, Lakki Marwat, Malakand, Mansehra, Shangla, Swabi and Tank + (Dera Ismail Khan, Hangu, Lower Dir, Mardan, Nowshera, Peshawar, Swat, and Upper Dir)
3	Punjab	36	Attock, Bhakkar, Chakwal, Chiniot, Dera Ghazi Khan, Gujrat, Hafizabad, Jhang, Jhelum, Kasur, Khanewal,

Sr. No.	Region	Number of districts	District
			Khushab, Layyah, Lodhran, Mandi Bahauddin, Mianwali, Multan, Muzaffargarh, Nankana Sahib, Okara, Pakpattan, Rawalpindi, Sahiwal, Sargodha, Sheikhupura, Sialkot and Vehari + (Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Lahore, Narowal, Rahim Yar Khan, Rajanpur and Toba Tek Singh)
4	Sindh	29	Badin, Dadu, Ghotki, Hyderabad, Jacobabad, Karachi East, Kashmore, Khairpur, Korangi, Larkana, Malir, Matiari, Mirpurkhas, Naushero Feroz, Sanghar, Shaheed Benazirabad, Shikarpur, Sujawal, Sukkur, Tando Allahyar, Tando Muhammad Khan, Tharparkar, Thatta and Umerkot + (Jamshoro, Kamber Shahdadkot, Karachi Central, Karachi South, Karachi West)
5	ICT	1	Islamabad
Overall			103 districts

Women voters enrolled since 17th December, 2017 to the General Election, 2018:

Province	Female voters
Balochistan	246,965
KP	600,923
Punjab	2,472,691
Sindh	753,982
FATA	192,641
Federal Area	36,478
Total	4,303,680

12.2 Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group

The Commission formed a Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group (GDEWG) on 8th March 2016. Through this platform, the Commission engages

civil society to run advocacy campaigns supporting female voter registration, awareness raising on importance of casting vote by women, persons with disabilities, minorities and transgender persons. GDEWG has provincial groups in all four provincial capitals and it has around one hundred members. These Groups meet on monthly basis. So far 57 meetings have been held.

The Commission also set up a separate gender corner in its library which has books from international and national writers on women development, women's political representation, inclusive elections with focus on persons with disabilities, minorities and transgender persons to facilitate all wings and officers for reference purposes.

To provide conducive environment to women working at ECP Secretariat and field offices, day care centres have been set up. Children of male as well as female staff are looked after by dedicated staff. Facility of separate washrooms for female staff have been provided in all offices of ECP. During the year 2018, special measures were taken to observe 10% quota for women recruitment.

For the first time, the Commission set up an exclusive Gender Complaint Desk on poll day for quick response to women, persons with disabilities, transgender persons and minorities. The desk received 85 complaints which were responded to immediately.

12.3 Celebration of International Days

12.3.1 International Women's Day

March 8th is celebrated as International Women's Day. First time ever the Commission started celebrating it in 2016, since then it has become a permanent feature in ECP's yearly events. Like other parts of the world, ECP also celebrates the day acknowledging contribution of women in different walks of life. Equal participation of women and men in the country's political and decision-making processes as voters, candidates and elected officials is of foremost importance for the Commission.



The ECP's International Women's Day event at the Secretariat in Islamabad

A political parties dialogue chaired by the Chief Election Commissioner was held on 13th March, 2018 to mark International Women's Day to highlight the issue of low women voter registration in the country.

12.3.2 International Day of Rural Women

The Commission's GDEWG marked International Day of Rural Women at Lok Virsa, Islamabad on 16th and 17th of October 2018 in collaboration with Civil Society Organization. The theme of the said event was, "Making Democracy Real for Rural Women and Girls of Pakistan: Setting a Shared Agenda for Empowerment and Progress". During the two days' conference over 2000 women from more than 102 districts were mobilized to attend this conference whereby they interacted with policy makers, local and international CSOs, business stakeholders, donors, academia and the media. The Commission arranged a mock poll for all participants and also held sessions where importance of voter registration, right to vote and political participation by rural women were highlighted.



A rural woman casting her vote during the mock polling exercise arranged for the conference participants on Rural Women's Day



Rural women with disabilities involved in an activity on Rural Women's Day

12.3.3 International Day for Persons with Disabilities

Like International Women’s Day, International Day for Persons with Disabilities (PWDs) was celebrated for the first time ever on 3rd December, 2018 at ECP like International Women’s Day. Despite all international and national commitments, PWDs face a lot of accessibility challenges around the world as well as in Pakistan, which are major obstacles when it comes to voter registration and their participation in electoral process.

The Commission being cognizant of challenges faced by PWDs has taken many measures to make electoral process all-inclusive with special focus on accessibility issues of PWDs. During General Elections-2018, postal ballot facility was extended to PWDs for the first time. The Commission issued directions to all provincial governments to ensure setting up all polling stations on ground floor and to build ramps in buildings where required. PWD-sensitive trainings for General Elections-2018 were conducted for polling staff and security personnel. Instructions were issued for allowing persons with disabilities to vote on preferential basis without standing in lines. The Commission has been interacting directly with PWDs to understand their challenges through GDEWG.

12.3.4 National Working Women’s Day

In order to mark National Working Women’s Day, the Commission held a session on 21st December 2018 on the following:

- i. Women in Elections 2018, NCSW’s Observation Report;
- ii. Women as Voters: Findings from Field (study by LUMS); and
- iii. Women in Politics: Gaining Ground for Progressive Outcomes in Pakistan.

Distinguished speakers from NCSW, LUMS, and a think tank, “Collective for Social Science” shared their findings during the session.



The Hon'ble Chief Election Commissioner addressing an event on the occasion of National Working Women's Day

12.4 Play to Vote

The Commission arranged a women's football tournament as a public awareness event under the theme "Right to Vote While Celebrating Female Empowerment through Sports" from 10th to 12th May, 2018. More than 600 participants including youth, persons with disabilities, minorities and women attended the event for three days and also participated in mock poll arranged by the Commission in collaboration with development partners.



The "Play To Vote" event held in May 2018



A football player casting her vote during a mock polling exercise

12.5 Gender-Sensitive Curriculum/Material for Training

The Commission has developed gender-sensitive curriculum/material for training of ECP's permanent staff. All trainings at Federal Election Academy include a three-day BRIDGE module on gender and elections. Gender-sensitive trainings were imparted to polling staff and security personnel in General Elections-2018, enabling them to deal with gender issues faced during poll day. During training, polling personnel were directed to give priority to persons with disabilities, transgender persons, senior citizens and expecting mothers for casting of votes without standing in lines.

12.6 Voter Education Campaign

- i. The Commission, with the help of implementing partners, placed 2D braille posters at entrances of various polling stations with guidelines on voting procedure for visually impaired voters. They were allowed assistance during casting of votes.
- ii. For mass awareness, the Commission printed voting procedure and other awareness raising messages overleaf of utility bills.
- iii. The Commission also displayed voting procedures and other information relating to poll day on the screens of automated teller machines (ATMs).

- iv. A video with information and sign language was produced and shared with 50 disabled people's organizations for Postal Ballot facility provided to persons with disability during elections. These organizations shared the video with their network of 30,000 persons with disabilities. The said video was also shared through social media for the first time.
- v. To ensure maximum participation of women, PWDs, minorities and transgender persons in the electoral process, six radio messages (in Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashto and Urdu) were developed with the help of persons with disabilities, the transgender community, rural women and minority representatives and broadcast through various radio channels.
- vi. A short video with audio and sign language on voting procedure was also developed with the help of partners and disseminated among public through GDEWG and social media. More than 0.3 million posters and 0.35 million brochures were disseminated among grass root level communities with the help of GDEWG.





Gender-sensitive trainings

13

VOTER EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS

In order to facilitate voters to exercise their right of franchise at the polling stations, the Commission took a number of steps for educating the electorates as to their political and electoral rights and persuade them to come out of their homes and cast vote whenever there is an election or a bye-election and make their independent choice in electing their representatives. This is not an easy task and requires a well-considered strategy to materialize the objective of enhancing voters' turn out at an election, especially in view of growing number of registered voters on daily basis. The Commission's voter education programme of the Commission is twofold, conventional and non-conventional.



An ECP hoarding

In 2003, the Commission had constituted District Voters' Education Committees (DVECs) in each District under the chairmanship of District Election Commissioner. In 2015, the DVECs were reactivated through

inclusion therein representatives from all walks of life namely CSOs, media, district administration, local religious scholars and local bar council. DVECs are continuously performing their sole function of educating the voters about their political and electoral rights, particularly exercising their right of vote at the polling station. DEVCs carried out various awareness activities on monthly basis such as awareness walks, seminars, speech contest in local colleges/schools and open theatres. As much as 569 events were conducted throughout the country before General Elections-2018.

Conventional voter education programmes comprised monthly newsletters and brochure, documentaries and messages, short messaging to all cellular phone users and outdoor publicity by placing banners and billboards carrying voter education messages at prominent spots of cities across the country.

Furthermore, transit media for the first time was introduced wherein, intra-Provinces buses were decorated with voter education messages. Mock-poll exercises in all Provinces were another feature of the voter education programme. Toll plazas of motorways and grand trunk roads were utilized for displaying voter education banners and streamers. Moreover, utility bills of power supply companies, gas and telephones were employed for carrying messages of importance of each and every vote for a strong democracy in Pakistan. Bank ATMs were also used for messages on the voter education programme.

The print and electronic media were also availed of for public awareness especially on the procedure of casting vote in national as well as provincial assemblies and other important election related matters. Conventional method of public awareness through print and electronic media was applied to all news channels and leading newspapers at provincial as well as regional levels so as to take voters awareness messages on grassroots levels.

Leading national newspapers and prominent regional papers were hired by the Commission to carry out the public awareness message on the importance of vote, role of voters and participation of women and persons with disabilities in the electoral process. Seven major campaign were launched in the print media of Pakistan, the details whereof are as below:

- i. Full page containing the contact details of all PECs/RECs and DECAs for public facilitation (four times);
- ii. Affidavit to be submitted with nomination papers by all contesting candidates (four times);

- iii. Campaign about establishment of display centres in respect of revision of electoral rolls (one time);
- iv. Campaign on the voter education process and facility of 8300 SMS (12 times);
- v. Instruction to the voters (two times);
- vi. Campaign about participation of overseas Pakistanis in bye-elections (two times); and
- vii. Public notice for voters' education (one time).

Pakistan Television Network channel was used for public awareness of overseas Pakistanis in more than 60 countries as well as the print media of Pakistan circulating in the countries where maximum diaspora could be addressed.

The partner organizations, i.e. UNDP and DAI-Tabeer assisted the Commission in public awareness programme. The Commission, in collaboration with UNDP and DAI-Tabeer, carried out a voter education programme (TVCs and documentaries) on leading news channels of Pakistan, radio, including FM channels and cable networks. In addition, Information, Educational and Communication (IEC) and other publicity material was developed and disseminated among the masses.

Civic and voter education programmes are a continual process and their aim is to encourage and motivate citizens to participate in electoral activities.

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14

CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL VOTERS' DAY, 2018

The elections, on the principle of one-man-one-vote, were held, for the first time, in Pakistan on 7th December, 1970. The Commission decided to commemorate and celebrate National Voter's Day on 7th December each year to sensitize general public about their rights and obligations in electoral process and democracy with an aim to make the process more inclusive through their participation. For the first time, National Voters' Day was celebrated in 2016 across the country. This has become a regular national event. Celebration of National Voters' Day is a recognition of the importance of voter participation, including that of women, minorities, transgender persons, persons with disabilities and youth.



President Dr. Arif Alvi in a group photo during the ceremony of National Voters' Day at Aiwan-e-Sadar, Islamabad on 7th December, 2018

In 2018, the day was celebrated with all fervour ensuing previous years. The main function was held at Aiwan-e-Saddar Islamabad. The programme was graced by the President of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, the Chief Election Commissioner, Secretary ECP, domestic and foreign guests. The theme this year for celebrating the day was to create awareness amongst general public to "register or transfer votes as per addresses on their NICs".

The President, in his address, urged such persons who possess NICs but are not registered as voters to register themselves at their earliest. He referred to

section 27 of the Elections Act, 2017 which requires voters to register only on permanent or temporary addresses mentioned in their NICs and thus, asked the voters to check their vote credentials by sending their NIC number on 8300 and if any voter is registered on an address other than the addresses on his NIC, he must transfer his vote to either permanent or temporary address as per NIC.

The Chief Election Commissioner in his speech on the occasion, while emphasizing on voter education, said that to inculcate mass awareness about electoral process, the Commission needs to work on young generation and therefore the subject on importance of vote should be included in curriculum.

Similar commemorations were also held at the Governor houses in each Province where Governors also sensitized public on the importance of registration and casting of vote. National Voters' Day was also celebrated at Divisional and district levels. The RECs and DEC's arranged several awareness activities including awareness walks, seminars, speech contests at colleges/schools etc.

At the eve of National Voters' Day, the Commission, with the help of development partners, also devised and disseminated IEC materials for public awareness.

INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY: PILOT PROJECT ON OVERSEAS VOTING

The Commission has always strived for making the electoral process more transparent by making each aspect of the process accessible to general public and stakeholders. The computerization of electoral rolls having NIC as unique identifier eradicating the chances of double registration, making available the voting details on 8300 SMS, introduction of Results Management System, introduction of Geographical Information System (GIS) Polling Schemes and establishment of Online Scrutiny Facilitation Cell during elections are examples of this tech savvy approach that has been the main focus of the Commission. These aspects have been deliberated upon from various angles in succeeding chapter of Post-Election Review, however, this chapter covers a new step taken by the Commission to enable the overseas Pakistanis to exercise their right of franchise through internet voting.

The right of vote to overseas Pakistanis from abroad remained under consideration of the Commission since long. The Commission established a Directorate for Overseas Voting in ECP Secretariat in 2015. It has been constantly involved in consultation and research on the subject. The consultative process was not only confined to local stakeholders, i.e. political parties, civil society organizations and the media but also extended to the overseas Pakistanis. In order to develop a workable, effective and transparent mode of voting for overseas Pakistanis, the Commission constituted a Special Committee to conduct the feasibility study of overseas voting. In addition to this, the 'Parliamentary Sub-Committee on Electoral Reforms' desired that the Commission may conduct mock exercises for overseas voting by using two modes, i.e. postal ballot (online re-registration, voting through postal ballots) and interactive voice response (tele-voting, voting through telephone). However, mock poll on postal ballot and interactive voice response was not successful and the reports were also shared with the Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms.

The Elections Act, 2017 provides for conduct of pilot projects in bye-elections to extend right of vote to overseas Pakistanis. Section 94 of the Act says that "The Commission may conduct pilot projects for voting by overseas Pakistanis in bye-elections to ascertain the technical efficacy, secrecy, security and

financial feasibility of such voting and shall share the results with the Government, which shall, within 15 days from the commencement of a session of a House after the receipt of the report, lay the same before both Houses of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament).”The Commission framed rules in order to conduct overseas voting through internet and to consolidate results thereof.

In furtherance to this, the Supreme Court of Pakistan in Constitution Petitions no. 74 to 79 of 2015, 49 to 56 of 2016 and 2 of 2018 and Civil Misc. Applications no. 4292 of 2017 and 162 of 2018 (under Article 184 of the Constitution), directed, vide its order dated 17th August 2018, the Commission to conduct pilot project on Internet Voting (I-Voting) on 14th October, 2018 bye-elections of 37 constituencies. The operative part of the Judgment is reproduced hereunder:

“The ECP and NADRA has given presentations to this Court in the foregoing regard and about third party validation that has also been received from independent experts, regarding the safety, integrity, and workability of the system. Based on these representations we prima facie find the mechanism of I-Voting to be safe, reliable and effective for being utilized in a pilot project. We are sanguine that the aforesaid proposed rules shall be incorporated in the Election Rules, 2017 to enable overseas Pakistanis to exercise their right of vote in the forthcoming bye-elections. However, we direct the results of the bye-elections and the vote count of the votes cast by the overseas Pakistanis through the I-Voting mechanism shall be kept separately and also secret till the time that ECP satisfied about the technical efficacy, secrecy and security of the votes cast by overseas Pakistanis through the I-Voting System. In case such determination, made on the basis of reasons, is in the negative and the ECP is not satisfied about the integrity, safety and reliability of the systems and votes cast through the same; ECP shall exclude the segregated votes cast by the overseas Pakistanis from the official result of the bye-elections in accordance with the proviso to Rule-84-C(2) supra. This safety feature shall ensure that elections are founded upon verified and authenticated votes only.”

The Commission has been striving to devise a viable mechanism for granting right of vote to overseas Pakistanis from abroad since year 2015. To achieve this milestone, activities undertaken by the Commission are mentioned below:

Sr no.	Activity details
1	The “Overseas Voting (Mock Poll)” conducted by the Commission with assistance of Ministry of Foreign Affairs by using two different methodologies of voting (i) Postal Ballot using Email (ii) Tele Voting (Interactive Voice Response) during period of Oct-Nov 2015 and shared report with Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms.
2	Constitution of Special Committee on Overseas Voting containing focal persons of concerned ministries like Foreign Affairs, Interior, overseas Pakistanis, IT, Law and Justice and NADRA.
3	The Commission decided to carry out comprehensive Feasibility Report on Overseas Voting subject. Terms of Reference (TORs) were designed for contracting International Consultants. UNDP engaged a Consultant (Michael burke) for purpose.
4	Feasibility Report completed and shared with Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms.
5	On desire of Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms, NADRA developed prototype i-voting software and briefed the Commission.
6	The Commission contracted NADRA to conduct pilot testing of Overseas Voting as per section 94 of Elections Act, 2017 on turnkey basis by using I-voting system.
7	Overseas Voting Committee re-constituted.
8	On directions of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, the Commission constituted a Task Force to undertake a technical audit of I-voting solution and submit report to the Supreme Court of Pakistan and the Commission.
9	The Supreme Court ordered to conduct pilot project in bye-elections of 35 constituencies on 14 th October, 2018.
10	Framing of rules with reference to I-Voting.
11	Pilot testing of I-Voting System conducted in 35 constituencies and submission of report to the Parliament on 31 st December, 2018 as required under section 94 <i>ibid</i> .

15.1 Pilot Project on Overseas Voting

After promulgation of the Elections Act, 2017, first pilot test for casting of vote by overseas Pakistanis from abroad through internet voting system was carried out in bye-elections of 35 constituencies held on 14th October 2018. Prerequisites for the pilot project include the following activities:

The I-voting system comprises two main components, i.e. “Voter Registration & Verification” and “Voters’ Passcode & Vote Casting”. The I-voting system

was deployed on especially designed web portal, i.e. <https://overseasvoting.gov.pk>.

Sr. No.	Activities	Timelines	Action by
1	Election schedule/identification of constituencies for I-Voting		ECP
2	Preparation of Business Requirement Document (BRD) of software as presented to Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms	By 20 th August, 2018	ECP and NADRA
3	Training session of ECP officers for running I-Voting	On 1 st September, 2018	NADRA and ECP
4	Implementation of technical recommendations of Task Force	By 1 st to 15 th September, 2018	NADRA
5	User acceptance test of I-Voting		ECP
6	Quality assurance, stress testing of application, voter secrecy and result encryption/decryption of data		
7	Media campaign for voter awareness including reference to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and NADRA for further dissemination of message to all Pakistani embassies and consulates		ECP, M/o Foreign Affairs and NADRA
8	Integration of data of candidates and electoral rolls		NADRA
9	Voter's Re-registration of overseas Pakistanis		1 st to 17 th September, 2018
10	Call centre support	1 st September, 2018 up to after poll day	NADRA
11	Demonstration of I-Voting to the Commission before implementation	30 th September, 2018	NADRA and ECP
12	I-Voting pilot testing preliminary report	November 2018	NADRA
13	Submission of final report to Parliament along with future recommendations	31 st December, 2018	ECP

15.1.1 Voter registration and verification

There are two steps involved in Voter Registration and Verification System which facilitated the process of email validity check for account creation and voter eligibility and verification before completion of registration. The system was deployed and remained activated for registration of I-Voting w.e.f. 1–17 September 2018. Out of total 631,909 registered overseas voters in 37 constituencies, only 7,461 voters (1.18%) got registered with I-Voting during registration phase. Detailed guidelines along with online video tutorials were made available on website for facilitation of overseas voters.

15.1.2 Voters' passcode and vote casting

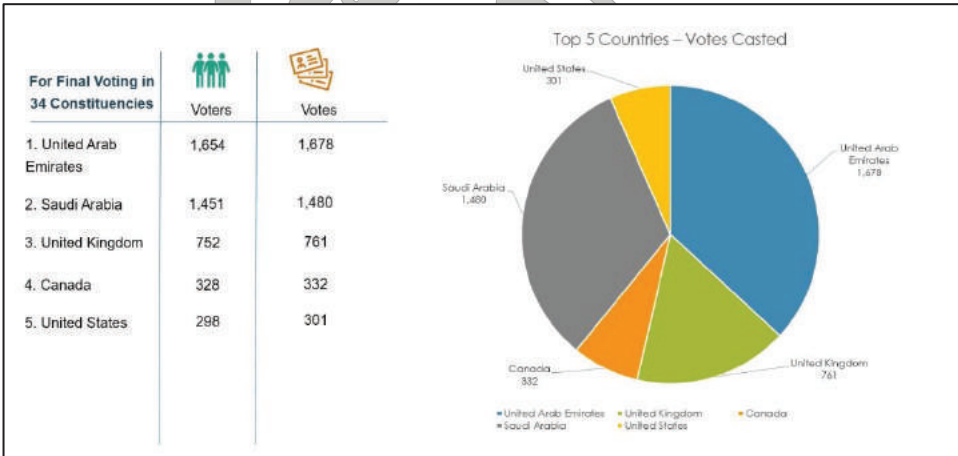
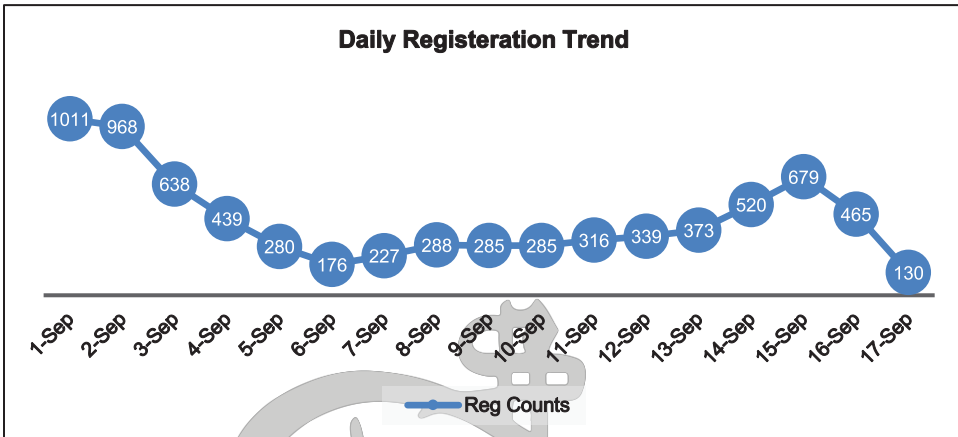
Voter Passcode activity was undertaken on 10th October, 2018 and Vote Casting through I-Voting was performed on election day, i.e. 14th October, 2018 (8 a.m.–5 p.m. Pakistan Standard Time). Voter Passcode issuance process involved sending system generated Voter Passcode through emails to registered voters. For vote casting, registered voters were required to enter a valid voter passcode before they can securely cast their votes through I-voting. In order to facilitate overseas Pakistani voters, the Commission established a call centre in NADRA to cater complaints regarding voter registration, verification and vote casting. About 550 complaints were received and redressed accordingly in a stipulated time period.

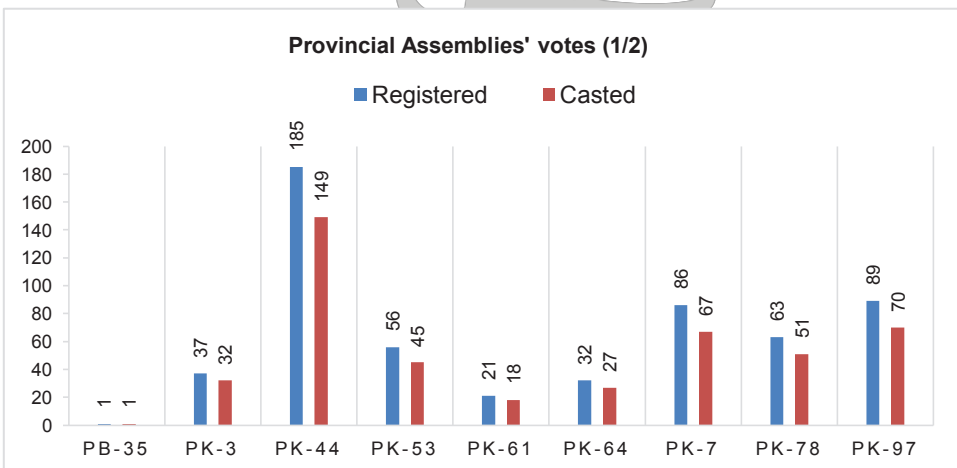
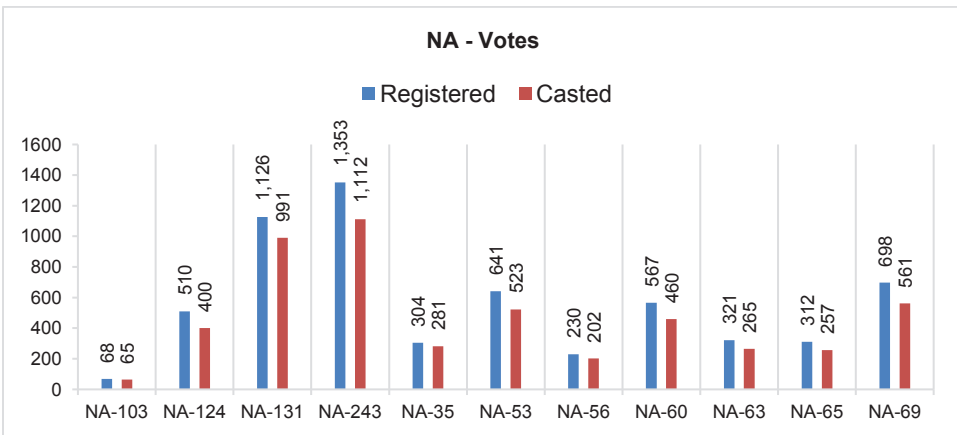
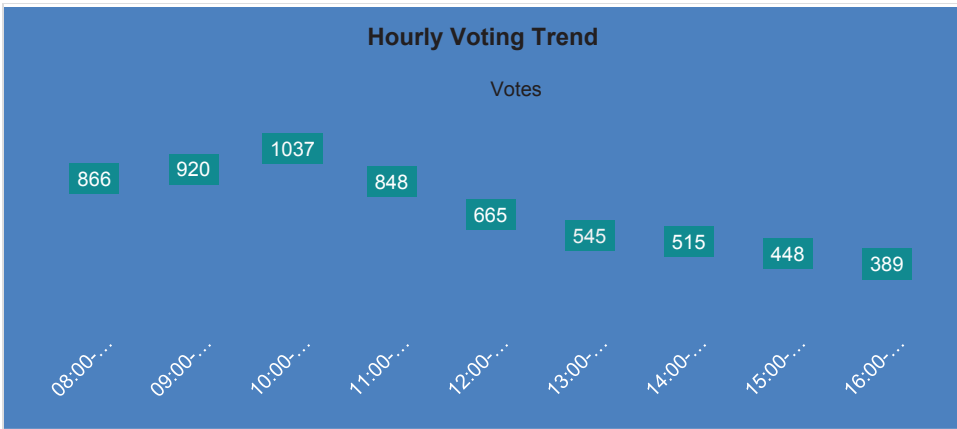
In order to ensure secrecy of vote, whole process of I-voting was secured through encryption and decryption of data. A security key was required to open and close the I-voting system. All reports including Form-45 were made available to the Commission by the system.

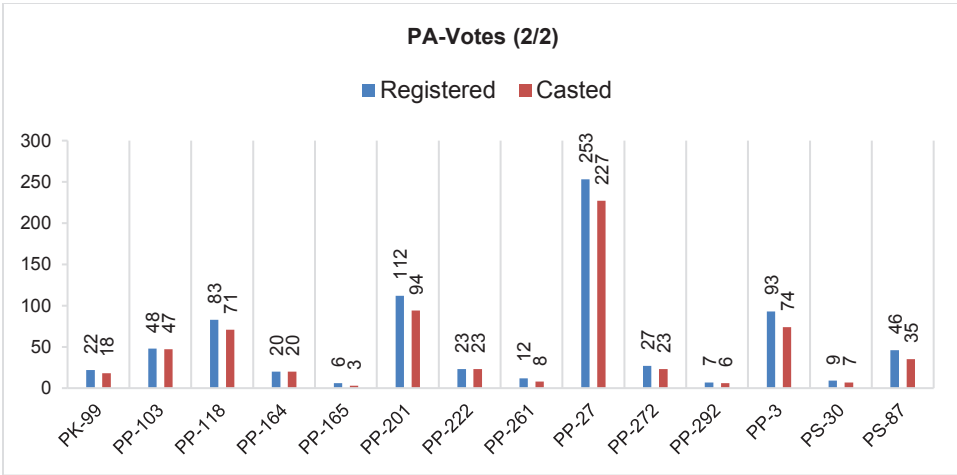
Initially bye-elections in 37 constituencies were scheduled to be held on 14th October, 2018. Later on, elections in PP-87 (Mianwali-III) and PP-296 (Rajanpur-IV) were declared unopposed by the Commission whereas no voter got registered in PB-40 (Khuzdar-III) through I-voting system. Out of 7,461 total votes, 6233 voters (83.54%) exercised their right of vote from abroad through I-voting system for 34 constituencies. There were two constituencies (NA 103 and PP 103) wherein one voter cast two votes which resulted in a difference between number of voters and votes cast.

As required under section 94 of the Elections Act, 2017, the Commission shared report on pilot project of I-voting for overseas Pakistanis with the

Parliament on 31st December, 2018. In the said report, the Commission observed that the secrecy of ballot remained at stake affecting the credibility and integrity of the voting system. Similarly, the system was also vulnerable to cyberattacks by hackers.







CONDUCT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BYE-ELECTIONS

Local Governments serve as a basic pillar of democracy ensuring empowerment to the people at the grassroots level; devolving powers and authority; promoting good governance and contributing to socio-economic development. They also serve as a harbinger of civic sense and awareness resulting in producing quality leadership at the local level. Moreover, it assists in eliminating barriers, reducing distances and assisting masses in participative decision making at their doorstep.

Article 140A of the Constitution provides that each Province shall, by law establish a local government system and devolve political, administrative and financial responsibility and authority to elected representative of Local Governments. It further mandates the Commission to organize and conduct local government elections in Provinces.

Conduct of local government election is a diversified task, which is being, regulated under six different local government laws and rules framed thereunder in the Provinces, Federal Capital as well as in cantonment areas of Pakistan, which are as under:

- i. The Punjab Local Government Act, 2013;
- ii. The Sindh Local Government Act, 2013;
- iii. The Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Local Government Act, 2013;
- iv. The Balochistan Local Government Act, 2010;
- v. The Cantonment Ordinance, 2002; and
- vi. The Islamabad Capital Territory Local Government Act, 2015.

Section 228 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides that every vacancy in local government institutions is required to be filled under applicable local government laws. The Commission remained engaged during the year 2018 to conduct bye-elections in local government institutions. The Province-wise summary of local government bye-elections conducted during the year 2018 is given as under:

16.1 Punjab

16.1.1 Direct elections

Sr. No.	District	Category of seats	No. of seats	Poll date
1	Multan (Cantonment Board)	General Member	2	06.02.2018
2	Sialkot	General Member	1	18.11.2018
3	Gujranwala	General Member	1	29.11.2018
4	Sialkot	Chairman (UC - 91)	1	02.12.2018
		Vice Chairman (UC-91)	1	
5	Rawalpindi, Attock, Jhelum, Sargodha, Mianwali, Faisalabad, Jhang, Chiniot, T.T. Singh, Gujrat, M.B. Din, Sialkot, Lahore, Sheikhpura, Kasur, Pakpattan, Okara, Multan, Lodhran, Khanewal, Vehari, Bahawalnagar.	General Members of Union Councils and Municipal Committees	58	21.12.2018
Total direct seats			64	

16.1.2 Indirect elections

Sr. No.	District	Category of seat	No. of seats	Poll date
1	Rawalpindi, Attock, Chakwal, Jhelum, Sargodha, Khushab, Mianwali, Bhakkar, Faisalabad, Jhang, Chiniot, T.T. Singh, Gujranwala, Hafizabad, Gujrat, M.B. Din, Sialkot, Narowal, Lahore, Sheikhpura, Nankana Sahib, Kasur, Sahiwal, Pakpattan, Okara, Multan, Lodhran, Khanewal, Vehari, D.G. Khan, Rajanpur, Muzaffargarh, Bahawalpur, Bahawalnagar, R.Y. Khan	Youth member	90	06.2.2018
		Woman member	198	
		Peasant/worker member	22	
		Non-Muslim	10	
2	Khushab	Chairman, District Council	1	08.6.2018
		Vice Chairman, District Council	1	
3	Attock, Sheikhpura, Vehari, Jhang, Chakwal, Mianwali, Narowal, Lahore	Woman member	4	14.09.2018
		Chairman	3	
		Vice Chairman	1	
4	Chakwal and Lahore	Woman member	2	02.11.2018
5	Rawalpindi, Khanewal, T.T. Singh, Layyah, Attock, Sheikhpura, Pakpattan, Narowal, Gujrat	Chairman	4	07.01.2019
		Vice Chairman	4	
		Woman member	2	
		Non-Muslim	1	
Total indirect seats			343	

16.2 Sindh

16.2.1 Direct elections

Sr. No.	District	Category of seats	No. of seats	Poll date
1	Khairpur	General Member	1	01.05.2018
2	Thatta	Member District Council	2	13.11.2018
3	Thatta, Khairpur, Dadu, Sukkur, Ghotki, Shikarpur, Kamber, Shahdadkot, Kashmore, Larkana, Jacobabad, Umerkot, Mirpurkhas, Tharparkar, Shaheed Benazirabad, Naushahro Feroze, Sanghar, Sujawal, Badin, Hyderabad, Jamshoro, Tando Allahyar, Tando Muhammad Khan, Matiari, Karachi South, Karachi West, Karachi Central, Karachi East, Malir, Korangi	Chairmen	22	23.12.2018
		Vice-Chairman	18	
		General Members	75	
		Member District Council	22	
Total direct seats			140	

16.2.2 Indirect elections

Sr. No.	District	Category of seats	No. of seats	Poll date
1	Dadu	Chairman	1	06.10.2018
2	Thatta	Chairman	1	26.12.2018
		Vice Chairman	1	
Total indirect seats			3	

16.3 Khyber Pakhtunkhwa

16.3.1 Direct elections

Sr. No.	District	Category of seats	No. of seats	Poll date
1	Abbottabad, Battagram, Bannu, Buner, Charsadda, Chitral, D.I. Khan, Hangu, Haripur, Karak, Kohat, Lakki Marwat, Lower Dir, Malakand, Mardan, Mansehra, Nowshera, Torghar, Peshawar, Shangla, Swabi, Swat, Tank, Upper Dir	General	233	23.12.2018
		Women	43	
		Peasants/workers	13	
		Youth	41	
		Non-Muslim	4	
2	Bannu, Buner, Kohat, Lakki Marwat, Lower Dir, Shangla, Swat, Upper Dir	General	30	20.02.2018 8 (re-poll)
		Women	3	
		Peasants/workers	2	
		Youth	10	
3	Buner, Lower Dir, Swat	General	12	17.04.2018 8 (re-poll)
		Women	1	
		Peasants/workers	1	
		Youth	6	
4	Lower Dir	General	8	02.12.2018 8 (re-poll)
		Women	1	
		Peasants/workers	1	
		Youth	4	
Total direct seats			413	

16.3.2 Indirect elections

Reserved seats

Sr. No.	District	Category of seats	No. of seats	Date of result declaration
1	Buner	Youth	1	12.03.2018
2	Swat	Youth	1	09.04.2018
3	Hangu	Non-Muslim	1	07.11.2018
4	Kohat	Women	1	07.11.2018
5	Abbottabad	Women	3	14.11.2018
6	Hangu	Non-Muslim	1	26.12.2018
Total reserved seats			8	

Seats of Nazim/Naib Nazim

Sr. No.	District	Category of seats	Number of seats	Poll date
1	Bannu, Karak	Nazim	1	25.1.2018
		Naib Nazim	1	
2	Peshawar, Mansehra	Nazim	2	8.02.2018
3	Lakki Marwat, Shangla	Nazim	2	27.2.2018
		Naib Nazim	1	
4	Nowshera, Swabi, Kohat, Bannu, Lakki Marwat, Abbottabad, Haripur, Mansehra, Swat, Buner, Lower Dir, Chitral	Nazim	23	25.4.2018
		Naib Nazim	27	
5	Lakki Marwat	Naib Nazim	1	14.5.2018
6	Lower Dir, Buner, Kohat, Nowshera, Abbottabad, Chitral, Hangu	Nazim	3	16.8.2018
		Naib Nazim	7	
Total seats			68	

16.4 Balochistan**16.4.1 Direct elections**

Sr. No.	District	Category of seats	No. of seats	Poll date
1	Ziarat	General Member	1 seat	03.01.2018

16.4.2 Indirect elections

Sr. No.	District	Category of Seats	No. of seats	Poll date
1	Mastung, Jhal Magsi	Chairman	2	29.03.2018
2	Harnai	Vice Chairman	1	
3	Killa Abdullah	Chairman	1	25.04.2018
4	Barkhan	Vice Chairman	1	03.05.2018
5	Killa Abdullah	Chairman	1	14.05.2018
6	Sohbat Pur	Chairman	1	26.06.2018
7	Kachhi	Chairman	1	17.08.2018
8	Kalat, Jhal Magsi	Chairman	2	17.08.2018
9	Quetta, Dera Bugti, Jaffarabad and Jhal Magsi	Chairman	4	28.09.2018
10	Kachhi	Chairman	1	28.09.2018
11	Shaheed Sikandar Abad	Vice Chairman	1	15.10.2018
12	Zhob	Chairman	1	22.10.2018
13	Ziarat	Chairman	1	12.11.2018
14	Musakhel	Chairman	1	17.12.2018
Total indirect seats			19	

* * * * *



PART-II
POST-ELECTION
REVIEW REPORT ON
GENERAL ELECTIONS-
2018

INTRODUCTION

The Commission successfully conducted the general elections on 25th July, 2018. A record high 105.95 million people registered themselves to vote for 272 National and 577 Provincial Assembly constituencies. This has been the largest national election thus far with 85,090 polling stations established and more than 0.85 million election officials and 371,000 security officials were deployed for the conduct of elections. This was the first election held post-electoral reform process initiated in 2008 that led to enactment of the Elections Act, 2017 less than a year before elections. The conduct of these elections has been appreciated for being organized and well conducted both by domestic and international observers. Despite the laurels, the electoral process had its own set of challenges, many of which were identified during the conduct of the Post-Election Review.



A Post-Election Review session in Karachi

Section 14(1) of the Elections Act, 2017 required the Commission to prepare an Action Plan before the conduct of elections. In April, 2018, the Commission prepared a comprehensive Action Plan specifying all legal and administrative

measures taken or required to be taken in respect of General Elections-2018, including the following:

- i. delimitation of constituencies;
- ii. revision of electoral rolls;
- iii. enlistment of political parties;
- iv. allocation of symbols;
- v. appointment and training of District Returning Officers, Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers, Polling Officers and other election officials;
- vi. preparation of constituency-wise list of polling stations and list of polling personnel;
- vii. determination and printing of requisite number of ballot papers and designation of printing presses;
- viii. establishment of a transparent result management system for election results;
- ix. introduction of any new technology;
- x. arrangements for election observers;
- xi. appointment of the Appellate and Election Tribunals;
- xii. security measures
- xiii. monitoring mechanism to report progress regarding implementation of the Action Plan.

Section 14(2) and (3) of the Act also requires that the Commission shall carry out a Post-Election Review of implementation of the Action Plan to ascertain shortcomings, if any, with suggestions to further improve the electoral system and shall include the Post-Election Review in its next Annual Report under section 16.

In pursuance of aforesaid provisions of the Elections Act 2017, the Commission constituted a Post-Election Review Committee at ECP Secretariat and four sub-committees at provincial level to conduct the Post-Election Review process and prepare Annual Report containing a chapter on Post-Election Review process.

PER Core-Committee at the ECP Secretariat

The PER core committee comprised the heads of various wings at the Secretariat level and representatives from implementing partners. The Core-committee, headed by the Additional Director General (Elections), was responsible for the overall design, selection, and methodology of the Post-Election Review, including data collection tools and methodology; reporting formats; activity plan and overall implementation.



Hon'ble Commission with members of PER Core Committee

Provincial PER Sub-Committees

A PER sub-committee was constituted at each provincial headquarter, headed by the PECs, to identify and engage field officers; coordinate with relevant stakeholders to conduct field exercises. RECs and DECAs of the selected districts were to arrange, organize and support the field activities based on the implementation plan.

A three-day workshop was held at Lahore on 9th to 11th January 2019 to finalize methodology, topics and activities for the Post-Election Review as per Action Plan issued for conduct of General Elections-2018. The list of stakeholders to be reached, key areas for feedback, data collection tools, role/responsibilities of committees and action plan for the fieldwork etc. were also finalized.

Technical and financial support was provided by implementing partners for the conduct of the PER exercises conducted in selected 22 districts across all four Provinces. For better coordination in the field, respective DECAs and RECs were actively involved in the consultative process. Stakeholders' feedback fed

into the PER final report and insights/recommendations from this consultative exercise are also meant to support the ECP in:

- i. development of the ECP's next five-year Strategic Plan (2019–2023);
- ii. strengthening of ECP's institutional policies and procedures;
- iii. development of concrete recommendations to the federal government for further improvements/amendments in the Elections Act, 2017; and
- iv. reviewing and updating the Election Rules, 2017.

Implementing Partners

UNDP and DAI-Tabeer, jointly provided technical and financial support to the Commission in developing Post-Election Review methodology, designing data collections tools, organizing workshops and field activities.

PER Consultations

Different activities and techniques were carried out for collecting feedback from respective stakeholders using data collection tools such as questionnaires, talking points, guiding notes, etc. Following activities were conducted starting 20th January till 25th February 2019:

- i. Key informant interviews (KIIs) with PECs, DROs, ROs, Deputy Commissioners, NADRA, education department, senior media persons, community representatives, CSOs and contesting candidates;
- ii. Workshops with RECs and DECs;
- iii. Workshops with Presiding Officers and senior Assistant Presiding Officers (APOs); and
- iv. Focus Group Discussions (FGDs) with ECP officers, male and female voters, youth, polling staff, lead and master trainers, data entry operators (DEOs), monitoring teams and security officials.



A Post-Election Review workshop in Multan

The consultations were conducted in 22 districts across the country, identified from diverse regions from all four Provinces to ensure representation from provincial headquarters, rural, urban and semi urban areas as well as ensuring ethnic and cultural diversity. Following is the Province-wise breakdown of the chosen districts:

Balochistan	KP	Punjab	Sindh	ICT
Quetta	Peshawar/FATA	Lahore	Karachi	Islamabad
Zhob	Abbottabad	Chakwal	Hyderabad	
Sibi	Shangla	Multan	Khairpur	
Gawadar	Chitral	Bahawalnagar	Umerkot	
	D.I. Khan	Faisalabad	Larkana	
		Mianwali		
		Sialkot		
4	5	7	5	1

Feedback/Data Collection Team

Teams comprising the following members conducted the field consultations:

- i. A facilitator from implementing partners;
- ii. One ECP representative of the PER Committee;
- iii. DEC and/or REC of the respective district/region to coordinate with stakeholders and arrange logistics;
- iv. A note taker arranged by implementing partners; and
- v. ECP IT representative, only for ROs and DEOs feedback.

During the Post-Election Review process, 44 key informant interviews, 226 Focus Group Discussions and 66 workshops with stakeholders were held in selected districts to obtain viewpoints and recommendations to further improve the election process. In this exercise, 5,055 stakeholders out of which 4 PECs, 16 DROs, 116 ROs, 20 DCs, 166 RECs/DECs, 83 ECP provincial headquarter officers, 87 monitoring teams, 70 lead trainers, 266 Master Trainers, 195 security personnel, 678 Presiding officers/Sr. Assistant Presiding Officers, 603 APOs/POs, 453 female polling staff, 224 DEOs, 276 media representatives, 291 CSOs/observers, 221 candidates, 59 women candidates, 258 polling agents, 308 members of marginalized groups, and 632 male and female voters. Province-wise breakup of the meetings and stakeholders' numbers are as under:

Number of KIIs, FGDs and workshops

Province/area	KIIs	FGDs	Workshops	Total
Balochistan	8	28	12	48
KP	10	55	15	80
Punjab + ICT	16	88	24	128
Sindh	10	55	15	80
Total	44	226	66	336

Number of stakeholders (district level)

Sr. No.	Stakeholders	Number of stakeholders								Total
		Punjab		Sindh		KP		Balochistan		
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	
1	PECs	1	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	4
2	DROs	7	0	1	0	5	0	3	0	16
3	ROs	63	1	39	2	7	0	2	2	116
4	DCs	7	0	5	0	4	0	4	0	20
5	RECs/DECs	49	1	34	2	44	0	35	1	166
6	ECP Provincial headquarter officers	14	4	15	1	16	1	27	5	83
7	Senior Officers of Education	2	0	7	2	4	2	3	1	21
8	NADRA Officers	0	0	6	0	0	0	2	0	8
9	Monitoring teams	16	1	12	2	25	0	30	1	87
10	Lead Trainers	12	0	15	0	18	1	24	0	70
11	Master Trainers	98	34	63	13	19	13	20	6	266
12	Security Personnel	66	7	53	0	26	0	43	0	195
13	Presiding officers and Sr. APOs	149	89	117	29	130	40	116	8	678
14	APOs and POs	172	38	110	28	101	26	99	29	603
15	Female Polling Staff	0	193	0	111	0	84	0	65	453
16	DEOs	106	0	71	0	29	0	18	0	224
17	Media at district level	88	12	40	5	58	0	41	3	247
18	Media at provincial level	3	0	10	0	10	0	6	0	29
19	CSOs/observers	115	37	65	18	30	6	18	2	291
20	Contesting candidates	63	7	46	13	42	1	46	3	221
21	Women candidates at Provincial level	0	19	0	16	0	2	0	22	59
22	Polling Agents	75	19	52	14	48	0	40	10	258
23	Marginalized groups (PWDs, Transgender persons, Minorities)	86	56	40	4	60	1	57	4	308
24	Voters (Male and Female)	159	93	85	58	53	52	58	74	632
Total		1,351	611	887	318	730	229	693	236	5,055
Grand total		1,962		1,205		959		929		5,055



FGD with ROs in Karachi

A consultative process generates multiple views and recommendations to improve the electoral process. In the spirit of transparency, the challenges and recommendations were recorded true to the form in which they were received. In this way, challenges and recommendations in this report are a reflection of field data and key observation reports containing views of the stakeholders.

The Commission prepared this report based on field data collected through the PER exercise and desk review of reports of international as well as domestic observers and media. The details in respect of each measure contained in aforesaid Action Plan and the Post-Election Review in respect thereof are given in succeeding paragraphs.

1

DELIMITATION OF CONSTITUENCIES

The 24th Constitutional amendment was promulgated on 24th December, 2017 to reallocate number of seats in the National Assembly to Provinces and Federal Capital and provides that for purposes of the next general elections to be held in 2018 and bye-elections related thereto, the allocation shall be made on the basis of provisional results of the 2017 census which shall be published by the Federal Government on the basis of 6th Population Census. Accordingly, the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics officially published provisional results vide Notification no. 1(2)/2004-PBS(C) dated 3rd January, 2018.



Training of delimitation committees

The Commission, in pursuance of the provisions of section 17 of the Elections Act, 2017 read with rule 7 of the Election Rules, 2017 carried out the exercise of delimitation. The relevant provisions of the law are reproduced as follows:

“Commission to delimit Constituencies—(1) The Commission shall delimit territorial constituencies for elections to the National Assembly, each Provincial Assembly and to the Local Governments in accordance with the provision of the Constitution, this Act, the Rules and the applicable local government law.”

(1) *The Commission shall delimit constituencies after every census officially published.*

“7. Commission to delimit constituencies—*After allocation of seats in the National Assembly under clause (5) of Article 51 to each Province, Federally Administered Tribal Areas and the Federal Capital, the Commission shall carry out the delimitation of constituencies of general seats in an assembly in accordance with section 19 and the procedure laid down in this chapter on the basis of population in accordance with the last preceding census officially published.”*

The Commission resolved that while formulating the delimitation proposal, the principles as laid down in section 20 of the Act shall be followed in letter and spirit. The Commission on 15th January, 2018 initiated the delimitation exercise afresh in accordance with the number of seats in the National as well as Provincial Assemblies as specified in Article 51 and 106 of the Constitution.

According to Article 51(3) of the Constitution, the National Assembly consists of 332 seats including seats reserved for women. The detail is as under:

Province/area	General seats	Seats reserved for women	Total seats
Balochistan	16	4	20
KP	39	9	48
Punjab	141	33	174
Sindh	61	14	75
FATA	12	-	12
Federal Capital	3	-	3
Total	272	60	332

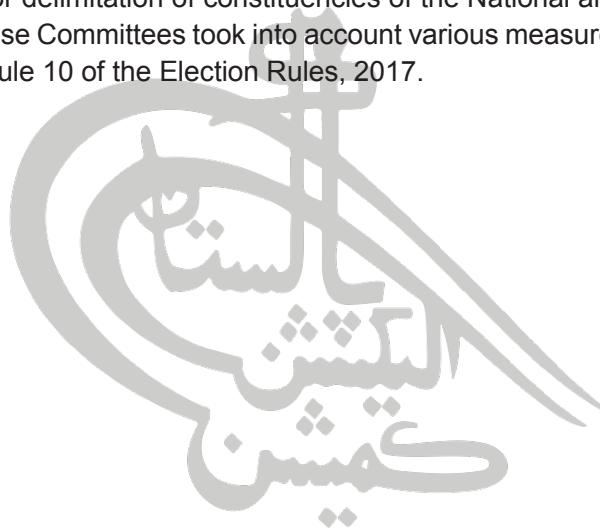
In addition to the number of seats referred to above, there shall be in the National Assembly, ten seats reserved for non-Muslims.

Article 106 of the Constitution lays down that each Provincial Assembly shall consist of such number of general seats and seats reserved for women and non-Muslims as is specified in the following table:

Province/area	No. of general seats	Seats reserved for women	Seats reserved for non-Muslims	Total seats
Balochistan	51	11	3	65
KP	99	22	3	124
Punjab	297	66	8	371
Sindh	130	29	9	168
Total	577	128	23	728

1.1 Implementation

Pursuant to above-quoted provisions of the law and rule 9 of the Election Rules, 2017 the Commission constituted five Delimitation Committees on 15th January, 2018 for delimitation of constituencies of the National and Provincial Assemblies. These Committees took into account various measures and steps as laid down in rule 10 of the Election Rules, 2017.





Training of delimitation committees

Before undertaking the job of Delimitation of the Constituencies, the Commission organized a three-day training workshop for members of all Delimitation Committees from 3rd to 5th January, 2018 in order to accomplish the task well in time and strictly under the law, rules and the instructions of the Commission.

The Delimitation Committees carried out the delimitation of constituencies exercise in accordance with the Act and the Rules framed thereunder. Amongst all other measures/steps required for delimitation, the Committees received and considered different proposals from general public that were referred to them by the Commission in terms of section 21(1).

After completion of this gigantic task of national importance, the Commission published preliminary report along with list of constituencies on 5th March, 2018 for information of general public. The Commission also mentioned in the said report brief reasons/justifications in different cases, where exceptions were made. In order to facilitate general public and for the sake of transparency of delimitation process, preliminary lists of constituencies of national and provincial assemblies were also made available on ECP website besides printing thereof in official Gazette. Similarly, for the first time, constituency-wise marked maps were also placed on ECP website to facilitate voters to file representations. A Facilitation Centre was also set up at the ECP Secretariat Islamabad to receive representations from the voters and provide copies of marked as well as unmarked maps of the districts.

Further, to make the process of delimitation more transparent and fair, representations were invited from the voters of respective national and provincial assemblies' constituencies to meet requirements of section 21 of the Act. The details of constituencies and procedure for filing of representations against the preliminary lists of constituencies were given wide publicity through electronic and print media. As a result, 1280 representations were filed before the Commission, which is comparatively greater than the number of representations (945) filed during the delimitation exercise carried out in 2002. The Province-wise breakup of 1,280 representations is as under:

Province/area	Representations Filed	Representations accepted	Representations dismissed
Balochistan	104	21	83
KP	182	123	59
Punjab	676	396	280
Sindh	290	70	220
FATA	11	04	07
ICT	17	0	17
Total	1,280	614	666

The Commission at length heard representations w.e.f. 4th April, 2018 to 3rd May, 2018 and decisions of the Commission were incorporated in the lists of constituencies and were finally published in official gazette on 3rd May, 2018 and ECP website for information of general public.

1.2 Achievements

The Commission's efforts to hold the mammoth task of delimiting national and provincial constituencies within the short timeframe of four months, despite several challenges, was widely appreciated by all stakeholders. There was general consensus that the revision of electoral boundaries was a task of national significance achieved by the ECP in record time when there were rumours about the likelihood of delay in elections given the short timeframe available.

It is also worth noting that, for the first time, detailed rules were promulgated on the topic of delimitation of constituencies and included in the Election Rules, 2017. The Commission, while formulating the delimitation proposal, followed the principles as laid down in section 20 of the Act in letter and spirit to the extent practicable.

The Committee structure was implemented for the first time in electoral history with tight security protocols put in place for safe and secure conduct of the delimitation exercise at the Secretariat in Islamabad. The Committees took into account various measures and steps as laid down in rule 9 of the Election Rules, 2017. To achieve consistency, the Commission employed a unique rule which required delimitation to start from the northern end of a district and then take a clockwise direction in a zigzag manner to include as many units as were required to make a constituency population equal to the set average. The

purpose of this provision was to ensure that gerrymandering is avoided in boundary delimitation.

1.3 Challenges

- i. The first and foremost challenge faced by the Committees was inaccurate maps provided by Revenue Departments. Accuracy of maps was a pre-requisite for error free delimitation. In some cases, maps corresponded neither to Revenue Record nor Census record. Therefore, the Committee repeatedly returned maps to Revenue Departments/local administrations for necessary rectification.
- ii. The inconsistencies in revenue record was another challenge. There were some serious inconsistencies between revenue record and maps provided by district administration. For instance, in some cases the District Administration for its convenience divided the area of a large *patwar* circle among two or more parts, without any notification.
- iii. The maps of census charges in respect of urban areas of big cities such as Lahore, Faisalabad, Gujranwala, Rawalpindi, Multan received from PBS were without physical features on the maps.
- iv. In different cases, legends were not marked on the maps.
- v. Some of the maps were not according to the scale given by the Commission.
- vi. Data of District Census Report (DCR) in respect of a few districts was not in conformity with the maps provided for the purpose.
- vii. Some variations between Revenue and Census record were also noticed. Census was conducted on the basis of Revenue record up until 2016. Since then a number of new administrative units had been created by the provincial governments, which resulted in disparity between records of both entities and got corrected in consultation with relevant authorities.
- viii. Due to belated enactment of the 24th constitutional amendment, the Commission had very short span of time for delimitation of constituencies.

- ix. In Balochistan, different patwar circles were split in non-contiguous two parts in different areas of Quetta and Killa Abdullah districts which created difficulties for the delimitation of constituencies.

1.4 Recommendations

- i. The following amendment in section 20(3) of the Elections Act, 2017 is proposed:
- “As far as possible, variation in population of constituencies of an Assembly or a local government, within the district, shall not ordinarily exceed ten percent.”*
- ii. Article 51 of the Constitution may be amended to provide that fresh delimitation be carried out not later than one year before the completion of the term of the respective assembly.
- iii. PBS while taking census exercise in future may:
- a. prepare maps of urban areas/big cities showing detail of localities on the maps to avoid over-lapping and missing of areas for delimitation exercise.
 - b. prepare digitized maps of urban as well as rural areas showing details of legends and localities.
 - c. ensure to check and correct the record of Census Charges Circles and Blocks before official publication of the Census and in future complete and accurate record may be provided to the Commission for delimitation of constituencies.
- iv. The provincial government may:
- a. provide maps strictly in accordance with the notified administrative units, i.e. Tehsils, Qanungo Halqas/Supervisory Tapedar Circles, Patwar Circles/Tapedar Circles, etc. for delimitation exercise.
 - b. provide maps to the Commission according to scale prescribed for the purpose to avoid inconvenience during delimitation of constituencies.
- v. The Federal Government may take immediate steps for official publication of Census Reports so that the delimitation of Local Government Elections could be carried out timely.

2

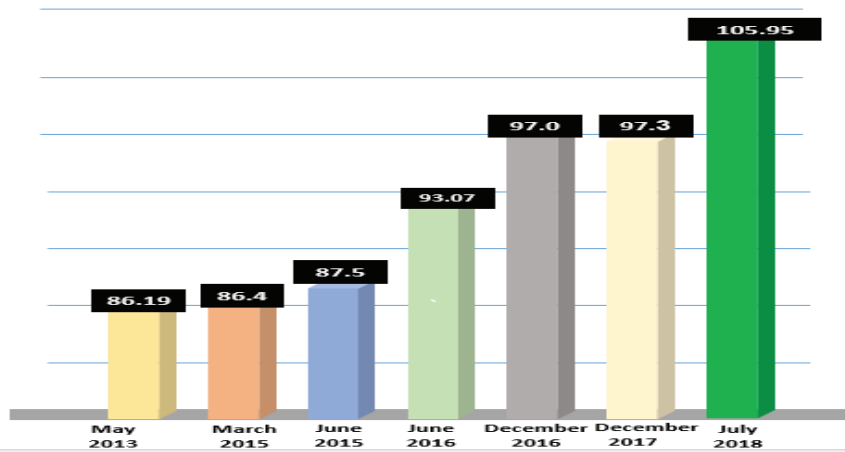
REVISION OF ELECTORAL ROLLS

Under Article 219 of the Constitution, the Commission is responsible for preparing the electoral rolls for elections to the National Assembly, Provincial Assemblies and local governments in Pakistan. Section 23 of the Elections Act, 2017 mandates the Commission to prepare computerized electoral rolls and revise periodically to keep them up-to-date.

As per provisions of section 25 of the Elections Act, 2017 the Commission in collaboration with NADRA devised a mechanism for provision of one window facility to ensure that fresh NIC holder is automatically enrolled as voter. Accordingly, NADRA revised its NIC Registration Form by providing therein a column for obtaining option from the applicant for registration of his vote at either present or permanent address as mentioned in his NIC. The said mechanism is operating on regular basis and under section 25 *ibid*. NADRA provides data of every fresh National Identity Card issued by it to the Commission for registration of the card-holder as a voter in electoral roll of an electoral area in which his permanent or temporary address is located.

Section 47 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides special measures for enrolment of women voters. It requires the Commission to annually publish disaggregated data of registered men and women voters in each National Assembly and Provincial Assembly constituency, highlighting the difference in number of registered men and women voters.

For Population Census-2017, the PBS increased census blocks from 1,39,933 to 1,63,694. The Commission decided to undertake a revision of electoral rolls exercise before General Elections-2018 to include all eligible citizen and exclude all disqualified voters by adopting new Census Block Scheme-2017. As a result of revision of electoral rolls 2017–2018 the voter count increased from 97.03 million to 105.95 million.



Graph shows increase of voter count from General Elections-2013 (May 2013) to General Elections-2018 (July 2018)

As per provisions of section 23(2) of the Elections Act, 2017 the Commission developed a Computerized Electoral Rolls System (CERS) to prepare and manage electoral rolls. CERS has been made operational at all provincial and district offices in month of January, 2018 and connected to ECP Secretariat and National Database and Registration Authority (NADRA). This operationalization enabled all DECs/Registration Officers to carry out data entry at their premises which ultimately contribute in swift updating/management of electoral rolls. It also enabled DECs/ROs to register new NIC holders as voters in a timely manner, the data of whom is being received from NADRA under section 25 of the Elections Act, 2017.

2.1 Implementation

Due to paucity of time, every activity of revision of electoral rolls was planned with stringent timelines to prepare electoral rolls well in time. The activities were divided in the following categories:

- i. Reconciliation of existing Census Block Code Scheme-2012 with new Census Block Code Scheme-2017;
- ii. Adoption of new Census Block Code Scheme for preparation of electoral rolls;

- iii. Adjustment of voters in affected Census Blocks;
- iv. Inclusion of qualified voters (persons attaining age of 18 years);
- v. Exclusion of disqualified voters (deceased voters, surrender of Nationality, cancellation of NICs etc.);
- vi. Verification of inclusion and exclusion of votes through door-to-door verification exercise;
- vii. Printing of preliminary electoral rolls;
- viii. Establishment of Display Centres for display of preliminary electoral rolls and inviting claims, objections and applications for corrections from general public;
- ix. Disposal of claims and objections by Revising Authorities and Data Entry of forms received at Display Centres;
- x. Printing of final electoral rolls for the General Elections-2018.

The approved timelines for revision of electoral rolls were as under:

Sr. No.	Activity	Responsibility	Timelines set for the activity
1	Procurement of maps, descriptions from Pakistan Bureau of Statistics (PBS) and its delivery to field offices	PBC, ECP, PECs, DEC's	Till 14.01.2018
2	Data processing, printing of Census Block Code-wise lists of new NIC holders, deceased voters and Supplementary List (additions, deletions/transfers) [2 sets] and supply to the offices of DEC's	ECP, NADRA, PECs, DEC's	
3	—Administrative arrangements —Appointment of revising authorities, Assistant Registration Officers, Supervisors, Verifying Officials —Printing of forms, booklets/guidelines (DEC offices will make required copies of guidelines for training) and training of Assistant	ECP, PECs, REC's, DEC's	

Sr. No.	Activity	Responsibility	Timelines set for the activity
	Registration Officers, Supervisors, Verifying Officials by the DEC's —Photocopying of required electoral rolls for door-to-door verification of affected blocks by the DEC's		
4	Reconciliation of New Census Block Scheme – 2017 and Comparison of Gazette Notification of Census Block Scheme, District Census Reports and Reconciled Data and removal of all discrepancies Confirmation from DEC's and PBS that all issues relating to Census Block Scheme – 2017 have been resolved/addressed and no issue is left unattended	ECP, PECs, DEC's Representative PBS Offices.	
5	Confirmation from all PECs that stage is set for door-to-door verification	PECs, DEC's	
6	Verification of new NIC holders and deceased voters adjustment of Census Blocks and voters of affected CBCs media campaign and monitoring of door-to-door verification will be carried out by the Commission	ECP, PECs, REC's, DEC's, AROs, Supervisors, VO's.	24 days, 15.01.2018 to 08.02.2018
7	Data entry of verified new NIC holders and deceased voters and adjustment of voters of affected Census Blocks at district level with the assistance of NADRA (if required) Data entry and approval of voters enrolled under section 25 of the Elections Act, 2017.	PECs, REC's, DEC's.	Till 05.03.2018
8	Data processing and printing of updated electoral rolls, preliminary electoral rolls and supply to the offices of DEC's (2 sets). Photocopying of preliminary electoral rolls (2 sets) by DEC's. Arrangement for display period.	ECP, NADRA, PECs, DEC's	16 days, 06.03.2018 to 21.03.2018

Sr. No.	Activity	Responsibility	Timelines set for the activity
	Confirmation from all PECs that stage is set for Display Period.		
9	Publication of preliminary electoral rolls (display period) Display Centres: Offices of Registration Officers Office of Assistant Registration Officers Display Centres at Charge or Circle level Media Campaign and Monitoring of display period carried out by the ECP.	ECP, PECs, RECs, DECAs, AROs, Supervisors, VOAs, Display centre In-charge.	36 days, 26.03.2018 to 30.04.2018
10	Disposal of Claims/Objections and Applications for Corrections by the Revising Authorities.	Revising Authorities, ECP, PECs, RECs, DECAs, AROs	43 days, 26.03.2018 to 07.05.2018
11	Data entry, printing and supply of electoral rolls (1 set) photocopying of updated electoral rolls (2/3 sets) by DECAs	ECP, PECs, RECs, DECAs, NADRA	Till 20.05.2018

Summary of the revision of electoral rolls 2017–2018 is as under:

Province/Area	Province/Area				
	Balochistan	KP and FATA	Punjab (including Islamabad)	Sindh	Total
Census Blocks (as per Census Block Scheme -2011)	9,212	22,237	73,143	35,341	139,933
Total voters before revision of electoral rolls (Dec 2017)	3,704,914	16,159,538	56,519,202	20,647,937	97,031,591
Registration Officers	32	32	43	29	136
Assistant Registration Officers	271	557	1,090	601	2,519
Supervisors	1,157	1,900	9,841	1,987	14,885
Verifying Officials	4,639	12,239	38,110	18,671	73,659
Total no. of Display Centres in the district	1,412	2,557	7,928	2,651	14,548
Display Centres in-charge	1,412	2,557	7,928	2,651	14,548
Revising Authorities	83	114	179	133	509
Total no. of persons visited Display Centres	337,131	447,577	527,222	229,178	1,541,108
Total forms received at Display Centres	Form 15	154,843	435,434	99,960	914,548
	Form 16	2,326	2,698	10,208	31,385
	Form 17	1,362	1,091	1,498	6,091
	Total forms	206,816	157,727	447,140	929,936
Total approved forms and entered into CERS	159,580	149,872	429,419	93,070	831,941
Total net increase during revision of electoral rolls	594,580	1,666,915	4,919,016	1,743,307	8,923,818
Census Blocks after revision of electoral rolls	10,216	25,806	88,535	39,137	163,694
Total voters after revision of electoral rolls	4,299,494	17,826,453	61,438,218	22,391,244	105,955,409

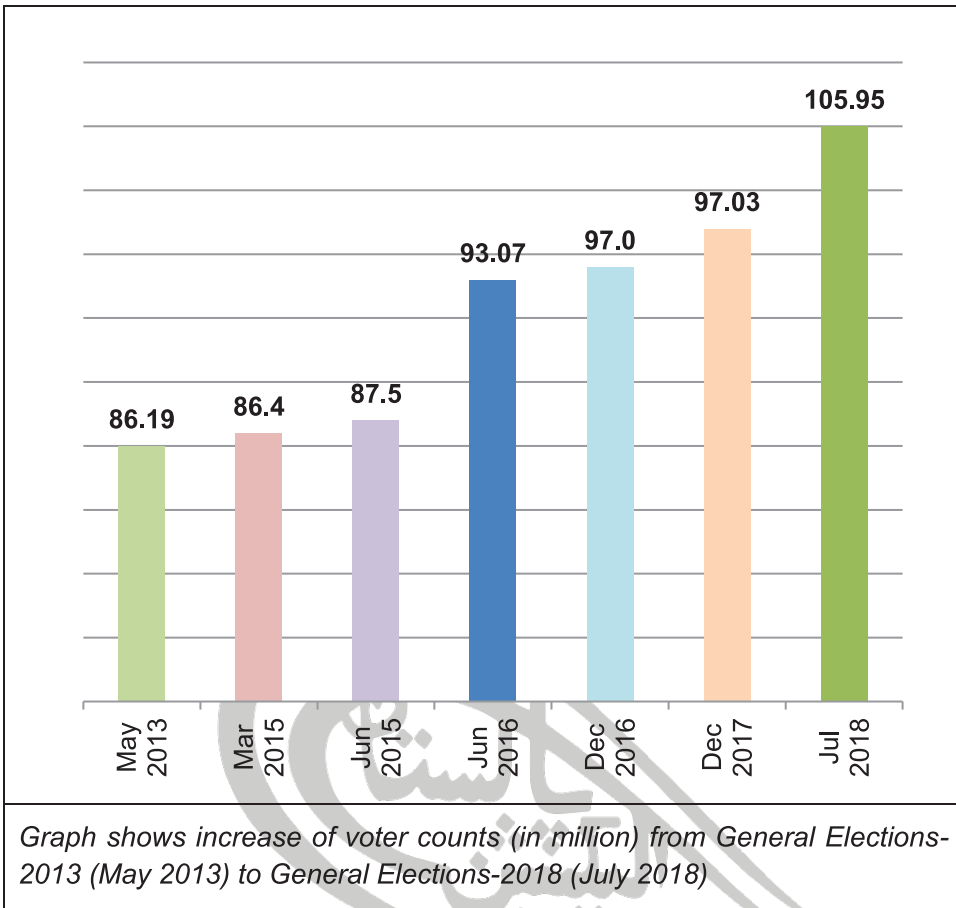
The efforts of the Commission resulted in number of registered voters increasing from 97.03 million in General Elections-2013 to 105.95 million in

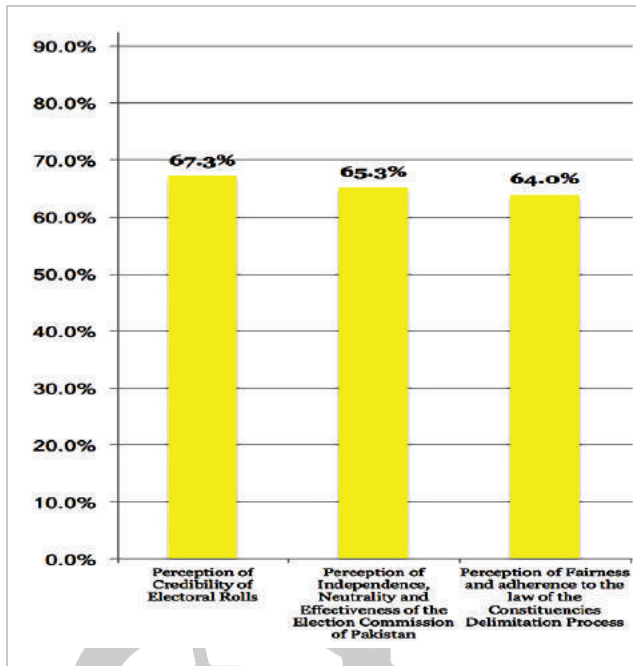
General Elections-2018, a 23% increase. A total of 19.7 million voters, 10.6 million men and 9.1 million women, were added to the electoral rolls. Women made 44% of the electorate for General Elections-2018. The gap between male and female voters was slightly reduced due to unprecedented female NIC and voter registration campaign led by the Commission from October, 2017 to April, 2018 which added 4.3 million women voters in the electoral rolls.

8300 SMS service was also used during the revision of electoral rolls. Around 3.5 million voters checked their vote registration details through ECP's SMS during revision of the electoral rolls. A nationwide media campaign was also launched to inform general public about the importance of voter registration.

2.2 Achievements

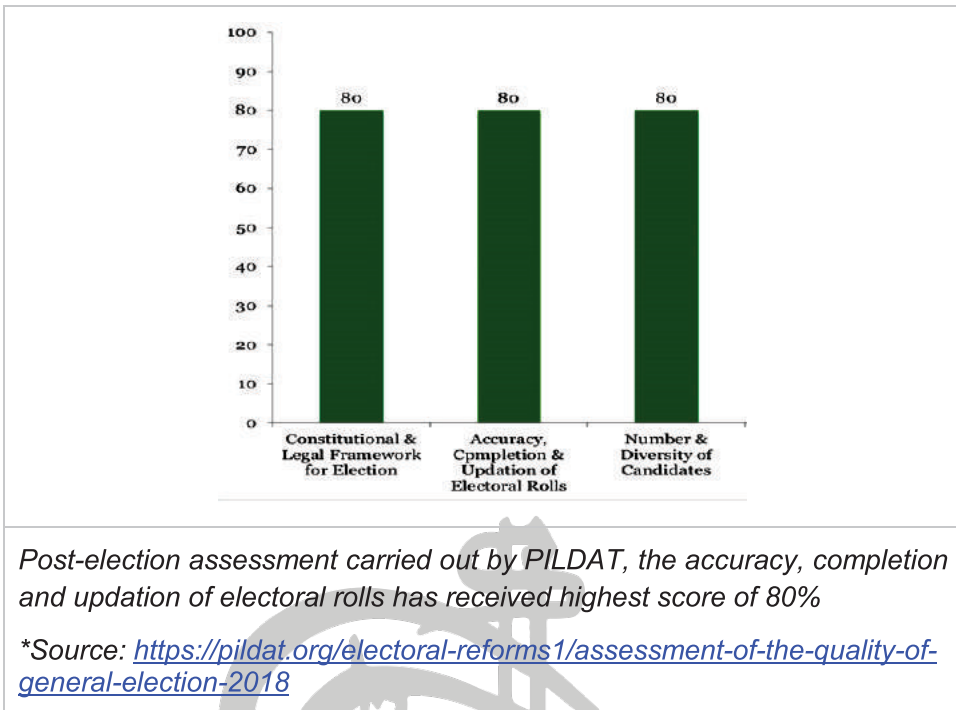
The measures adopted by Commission for preparation of transparent and error-free electoral rolls were evident during the General Elections-2018 wherein no such considerable complaint or objections on the accuracy of electoral rolls were observed. In the survey conducted by PILDAT, on Perception on Pre-poll Fairness, perception of credibility of electoral rolls, has received the highest score of 67.3%. Likewise, in assessment of the quality of General Elections-2018 carried out by PILDAT, the accuracy, completion and updation of electoral rolls has also received highest score of 80%, which is testimony of transparency and maturity of the electoral rolls process.





Perception on pre-poll fairness, perception of credibility of electoral rolls has received the highest score of 67.3%

*Source: https://pildat.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/05/PILDATScorecardonPerceptionofPre-PollFairness_May-2018.pdf



FAFEN noted that the significant increase in the number of first-time voters, 8.5 million in General Elections-2018, is primarily due to an unprecedented increase in voter registration between the two general elections. The increase in the number of registered voters between the 2013 and 2018 elections (19.77 million) was more than the increase in the 10 years between the 2002 and 2013 elections (14.27 million).

Political parties and contesting candidates during process of Post-Election Review appreciated voter registration process, display centres and linked NADRA registration. NADRA had dedicated Friday exclusively to facilitate women at the NADRA offices for issuance of NICs. Attitude of ECP officials was also appreciated who encouraged and guided general public to visit ECP office.

2.3 Challenges

- i. The process of revision of electoral rolls 2017–2018 was exceptional and challenging due to time constraints as the PBS provided the requisite data in December, 2017 which was expected in June, 2017;
- ii. Adoption of provisional Census Block Code scheme 2017 and its reconciliation with existing Block Code scheme-2012;
- iii. NADRA mentioned incomplete addresses in the NICs of citizens and same are reflected in the electoral rolls which made it difficult for verifying officials to locate such voters or even allocate an appropriate and relevant CBC to them;
- iv. Non-issuance of NIC to women is the prime reason for gender gap in electoral rolls due to complexities and challenges faced by women in registration with NADRA;
- v. The process of obtaining disability certificate from concerned authorities is a huge problem for PWDs which is a pre-requisite for obtaining special NIC for disabled persons. This is the key reason for low registration of PWDs in the electoral rolls as the process remains lengthy and cumbersome.

2.4 Recommendations

- i. The Elections Act, 2017 may be amended to bind PBS to amend census block code scheme in consultation with the Commission so that accurate delimitation and electoral rolls could be provided to general public, candidates and political parties;
- ii. Federal Government may issue direction to NADRA for increasing registration of women, persons with disabilities, minorities and transgender persons by removing existing challenges and barriers;
- iii. Directions may also be issued to concerned authorities to simplify processes for PWDs to obtain disability certificate and issuance of NIC with disability logo by NADRA;
- iv. Standard Operating Procedures for registration of deaths in the offices of union councils/cantonment boards/local government institutions may be revised by the provincial governments and relevant departments for removal of complexities in timely registration of deaths;

- v. In relation to the provision of electoral rolls to candidates and their agents in soft copy with photographs of the voters, sections 41(2) and 79(3) may be omitted from the Elections Act, 2017 to preserve the sanctity and privacy of voters;
- vi. Federal Government may direct NADRA to obtain accurate address of the applicant while filling of form for registration/issuance of NIC.

* * * * *



3

ENLISTMENT OF POLITICAL PARTIES

The political parties are vital for democratic political systems which reflect public will and play pivotal role in promotion of a constitutional, democratic culture. We live in an age of representative democracy in which people choose their representatives to continue the work of government on their behalf. In democratic states, emergence of political parties is a natural process and without their recognized role, a democratic system cannot flourish.

A political party has been defined in the law as “an association of citizens or a combination or a group of such associations formed with a view to propagating or influencing political opinion and participating in election for any elective public office or for membership of a legislative body.” The main function of political parties is to offer the alternatives and to expound their merits. For successful running of the parliamentary form of government, the political parties are *sine qua non* and they play a fundamental role in fostering a constitutional and democratic political culture.

Sections 200 and 201 of the Elections Act, 2017 sets legal conditions for the formation of political parties with a distinct identity of its structures at the national, provincial and local levels; distinct name; and constitution that, *inter alia*, details the aims and objectives of the political party. Section 202 requires enlistment of new political parties as well as political parties already enlisted with the Commission before promulgation of the Elections Act, 2017 were deemed to have been enlisted provided they had filed with the Commission the documents mentioned in sub-section (2) of section 202 and if not, they shall submit the documents within sixty days from the commencement of the Act. Section 202 of the Elections Act, 2017 sets out that a political party, within thirty days of its formation, must apply to the Commission for enlistment.

The law elaborates on the documentation to be provided by the political party to the ECP for enlistment that includes a copy of the constitution, copy of consolidated statement of its accounts (section 210), list of at least 2,000 members with their signatures or thumb impressions along with copies of their NIC, proof of deposit of PKR 200,000 in favour of the Commission in the

Government Treasury as enlistment fee and certificate as required under section 209.

3.1 Implementation

Soon after promulgation of the Act, all previously enlisted political parties were asked through Press Releases to submit requisite documents with the Commission within stipulated time and notices were issued to 351 political parties. Resultantly, 284 political parties which failed to submit the requisite documents were de-listed by the Commission after giving them reasonable opportunity of hearing. Only 67 political parties which fulfilled the requirements remained enlisted. Later, on the Supreme Court of Pakistan granted relief to 35 aggrieved political parties which were re-enlisted by the Commission upon fulfilling the legal requirements. In total 119 political parties including 17 new political parties were enlisted with the Commission whereas 95 political parties contested the General Elections-2018.

The list of existing political parties/two electoral alliances is appended hereunder:

Sr. No.	Political party
1	Aam Admi Tehreek Pakistan
2	Aam Awam Party
3	Aam Log Party Pakistan
4	All Pakistan Minorities Alliance
5	All Pakistan Minority Movement
6	All Pakistan Muslim League
7	All Pakistan Muslim League (Jinnah)
8	All Pakistan Tehreek
9	Allah-o-Akbar Tehreek
10	Amun Taraqqi Party
11	Awam League
12	Awami Justice Party Pakistan
13	Awami Muslim League Pakistan
14	Awami National Party
15	Awami Party Pakistan-S
16	Awami Workers Party
17	Bahawalpur National Awami Party
18	Balochistan Awami Party
19	Balochistan National Movement

Sr. No.	Political party
20	Balochistan National Party
21	Balochistan National Party (Awami)
22	Barabri Party Pakistan
23	Front National (Pakistan)
24	Hazara Democratic Party
25	Humdardan-e-Watan Pakistan
26	Islami Jamhoori Ittehad Pakistan
27	Islami Tehreek Pakistan
28	Ittehad-e-Ummat Pakistan
29	Jamaat-e-Islami Pakistan
30	Jamhoori Wattan Party
31	Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (F)
32	Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam (S)
33	Jamiat Ulama-e-Pakistan (Noorani)
34	Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam Nazryati Pakistan
35	Jamote Qaumi Movement
36	Jannat Pakistan Party
37	Majlis Wahdat-e-Muslimeen Pakistan
38	Markazi Jamiat Al-Hadith Pakistan
39	Masih Awami Party
40	Mohajir Qaumi Movement Pakistan
41	Mohib-e-Wattan Nowjawan Inqilabion Ki Anjuman (MNAKA)
42	Move on Pakistan
43	Mustaqbil Pakistan
44	Mutahidda Qabail Party
45	Muttahida League
46	Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan
47	Muttahidda Ulema-e-Mashaikh Council of Pakistan
48	National Party
49	National Peace Council Party
50	National Peoples Party
51	Nizam-e-Mustafa Party
52	Pak Sarzameen Party
53	Pakistan Aman Party
54	Pakistan Aman Tehreek.
55	Pakistan Awami Inqelabi League
56	Pakistan Awami League
57	Pakistan Awami Raj
58	Pakistan Awami Tehreek
59	Pakistan Barabri Party.
60	Pakistan Citizen Movement
61	Pakistan Conservative Party
62	Pakistan Falah Party

Sr. No.	Political party
63	Pakistan Falahi Tehreek
64	Pakistan Freedom Movement
65	Pakistan Human Party
66	Pakistan Human Rights Party
67	Pakistan Islamic Republican Party
68	Pakistan Justice and Democratic Party
69	Pakistan Kissan Ittehad (Ch. Anwar)
70	Pakistan Masiha Party
71	Pakistan Muhafiz Watan Party
72	Pakistan Muslim Alliance
73	Pakistan Muslim League
74	Pakistan Muslim League (F)
75	Pakistan Muslim League (J)
76	Pakistan Muslim League (N)
77	Pakistan Muslim League Sher-e-Bangal A.K. Fazal-ul-Haque
78	Pakistan Muslim League Council
79	Pakistan Muslim League Organization
80	Pakistan Muslim League(Z)
81	Pakistan National Muslim League
82	Pakistan Peoples Party
83	Pakistan Peoples Party (Shaheed Bhutto)
84	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians
85	Pakistan Peoples Party Workers
86	Pakistan Quami Yakjehti Party
87	Pakistan Rah-e-Haq Party
88	Pakistan Siraiki Party (T)
89	Pakistan Sunni Tehreek
90	Pakistan Supreme Democratic Party
91	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Ijtihad
92	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf
93	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf Nazriati
94	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-Gulalai
95	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaniat
96	Pakistan Welfare Party
97	Pakistan Yaqeen Party
98	Pasban Pakistan.
99	Pashtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party
100	Peoples Movement of Pakistan (PMP)
101	Peoples Muslim League (Pakistan)
102	Qaumi Watan Party
103	Roshan Pakistan League
104	Saraikistan Democratic Party
105	Sindh United Party

Sr. No.	Political party
106	Sub Ka Pakistan
107	Sunni Ittehad Council
108	Sunni Tehreek
109	Tabdeeli Pasand Party
110	Tehreek Ahle-e-Sunnat Pakistan
111	Tehreek Jawanan Pakistan
112	Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan
113	Tehreek Tabdili Nizam Pakistan
114	Tehreek-e-Difa-e-Pakistan
115	Tehreek-e-Ehsas-e-Pakistan
116	Tehreek-e-Labbaiq Islam
117	Tehreek-e-Suba Hazara Pakistan
118	Tehreek-e-Tahafuze Pakistan
119	Tehreek-e-Tameer-e-Pakistan
120	Grand Democratic Alliance
121	Mutahida Majlis-E-Amal Pakistan

3.2 Achievements

The Commission adopted proactive approach to inform political parties about new legal requirements for enlistment, and facilitated them in meeting those requirements, so as to ensure that the risk of certain parties being excluded from the upcoming general election may be minimized.

3.3 Challenges

- i. Some of the already enlisted political parties were unaware of the fact that they had to submit to the Commission list of at least 2,000 members with their signatures or thumb impressions along with copies of their NICs despite the fact that the Commission issued press releases, public notices for information and guidance of existing political parties.
- ii. Some of the already enlisted political parties faced difficulty to meet out the criteria laid down in section 202 *ibid.* within 60 days.
- iii. Difficulties were faced in implementation of provisions contained in section 204(3) of the Elections Act, 2017 regarding foreign funding while scrutinizing consolidated statement of accounts submitted by political parties due to:

- a. Multiple accounts of parties;
- b. Accounts being maintained in the names of individuals.

3.4 Recommendations

- i. Section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017 may be amended to provide the opening of an exclusive account in the name of enlisted political party and all transactions should be made from the same account and no party fund will be deposited in the account of an individual in any case;
- ii. Section 202 of the Elections Act, 2017 may be amended to provide that the list of 2,000 members provided by political parties for enlistment shall consist of 20 percent women members.

* * * * *



4 ALLOCATION OF SYMBOLS

An election symbol is used in electoral process, in order to enhance and provide equal chances of franchise to the illiterate, aged persons and as well as those people with low comprehension. The Commission aims at maximum participation of voters in the election process. In order to facilitate voters in the identification of a candidate, a picture of a familiar symbol is printed on the ballot paper against the name of each contesting candidate. The political parties and candidates run their election campaign on the basis of this pictorial symbol, which itself is a source of publicity and has great effect on the public mind thus enabling the voters to have easy access to the candidates of their choice.

The process of allocation of symbols for General Election, 2018 has been delineated in chapter XII “Allocation of Symbols” of the Elections Act, 2017. The Act provides procedure for allocation of symbols, classification of symbols, the manner for submission of the application for symbol, principles of allocation of symbols, symbol disputed by parties or group of parties and allotment of symbol to an independent candidate.

4.1 Implementation

A political party enlisted with the Commission under the Elections Act, 2017 is eligible to obtain an election symbols for contesting election to the National Assembly as well as Provincial Assemblies after fulfilling the requirement by submitting the required certificates and statements as referred to in sections 202, 206, 209 and 210 as envisaged under section 215 of the Elections Act, 2017. There are 331 symbols prescribed under the Election Rules, 2017. The chart of symbols was published/printed and communicated to facilitate the ROs, political parties and candidates.

Before General Elections-2018, there were 121 political parties enlisted with the Commission including two alliances of the parties out of which election symbols were allocated to 107 political parties whereas only 95 political parties contested General Elections-2018 on allocated symbols. The remaining symbols were available for allotment to the independent candidates by the Returning Officers. The Returning Officers drew the list of contesting candidates in Urdu alphabetical order and allotted each contesting candidate one of the election symbols, in a manner as prescribed in the Election Rules,

2017. The Returning Officers allotted party symbols, as allocated by the Commission, to the candidates fielded by political parties and the independent candidates had a choice to select an election symbol from amongst the remaining election symbols.

Allocation and allotment of election symbols to political parties and to the contesting candidates is one of the most important segments of the electoral process. For allocation of symbols to the political parties, the Commission issued a Press Release on 15th May, 2018 inviting applications from parties which met requisite criteria. In response to the Press Release 107 political parties submitted their applications for allocation of symbols for General Elections-2018.

The Commission held a meeting on 29th May, 2018 for allocation of symbols to the political parties for General Elections-2018. The Commission heard the authorized representatives/party leaders of the political parties present before it at length for ascertaining their options/preferences for allotment of symbols and allotted election symbols to the following political parties as mentioned against the name of each political party.

Sr. No.	Political party	Symbol	Sr. No. in chart
1	Aam Admi Tehreek Pakistan	Mug	181
2	Aam Awam Party	Wheat bunch	322
3	Aam Log Party Pakistan	Hut	144
4	All Pakistan Minority Movement	Giraffe	122
5	All Pakistan Muslim League	Eagle	93
6	All Pakistan Muslim League (Jinnah)	Bicycle	27
7	All Pakistan Tehreek	Boat	30
8	Allah-O-Akbar Tehreek	Chair	55
9	Amun Taraqqi Party	Tyre	309
10	Awam League	Human hand	143
11	Awami Justice Party Pakistan	Tumbler	303
12	Awami Muslim League Pakistan	Ink pot with pen	146
13	Awami National Party	Lantern	162
14	Awami Party Pakistan-S	Aeroplane	2
15	Awami Workers Party	Bulb	40
16	Balochistan Awami Party	Cow	70
17	Balochistan National Movement	Sickle	246
18	Balochistan National Party	Axe	14

Sr. No.	Political party	Symbol	Sr. No. in chart
19	Balochistan National Party (Awami)	Camel	49
20	Barabri Party Pakistan	Gate	117
21	Front National Pakistan	Unity	311
22	Grand Democratic Alliance	Star	259
23	Hazara Democratic Party	Crescent	72
24	Humdardan-e-Watan Pakistan	Coat	61
25	Islami Jamhoori Ittehad Pakistan	Football	108
26	Islami Tehreek Pakistan	Two swords	307
27	Ittehad-e-Ummat Pakistan	Energy saver	99
28	Jamat-e-Islami Pakistan	Scale	232
29	Jamhoori Watan Party	Wheel	323
30	Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam Nazaryati Pakistan	Takhti	274
31	Jamiat Ulama-e-Islam(F)	Pen	195
32	Jamiat Ulema-e-Pakistan (Noorani)	Key	154
33	Jamiat Ulma-e-Islam Pakistan(S)	Ladder	161
34	Jamote Qaumi Movement	Electric pole	95
35	Jannat Pakistan Party	Fountain	111
36	Majlis Wahdat-e-Musulimeen Pakistan	Tent	282
37	Markazi Jamiat Ahl-e-Hadith	Spectacles	252
38	Mohajir Qaumi Movement (Pakistan)	Candle	50
39	Move on Pakistan	Ostrich	189
40	Muhib-e-Watan Noujawan Anqlabion Ki Anjuman	Cap	52
41	Mustaqbil Pakistan	Comb	64
42	Mutahida Majlis-e-Amal Pakistan	Book	31
43	Mutahidda Ulema Mashaikh Council of Pakistan	Combat aircraft	65
44	Mutahiddia Qabail Party	Turban	305
45	Mutihida League	Bear	22
46	Muttahida Qaumi Movement Pakistan	Kite	159
47	National Party	Saw	230
48	National Peace Council Party	Swallow	267
49	Pak Sarzameen Party	Dolphin	85
50	Pakhtoonkhwa Milli Awami Party	Tree	295
51	Pakistan Aman Party	Dove	88
52	Pakistan Aman Tehreek	Missile	175
53	Pakistan Awami Inqelabi League	Trophy	298
54	Pakistan Awami League	Hockey	136
55	Pakistan Awami Raj	Jharoo	150
56	Pakistan Awami Tehreek	Motorcycle	179
57	Pakistan Citizen Movement	Tower	291
58	Pakistan Conservative Party	Torch	289

Sr. No.	Political party	Symbol	Sr. No. in chart
59	Pakistan Falah Party	Ship	242
60	Pakistan Falahi Tehreek	Lotus	168
61	Pakistan Freedom Movement	Date tree	78
62	Pakistan Human Party	Sun	265
63	Pakistan Human Rights Party	Umbrella	310
64	Pakistan Islamic Republican Party	Badge	16
65	Pakistan Justice and Democratic Party	Gavel	118
66	Pakistan Kissan Ittehad (Ch. Anwar)	Plough	206
67	Pakistan Muslim Alliance	Fish	104
68	Pakistan Muslim League	Tractor	292
69	Pakistan Muslim League (Council)	Minar-e-Pakistan	174-A
70	Pakistan Muslim League (Functional)	Rose	226
71	Pakistan Muslim League (Junejo)	Bus	43
72	Pakistan Muslim League (N)	Tiger	284
73	Pakistan Muslim League (Zia-ul-Haq Shaheed)	Helicopter	134
74	Pakistan Muslim League Organization	Stag	257
75	Pakistan Muslim League Sher-e-Bangal A.K. Fazal-UI-Haque	Rickshaw	219
76	Pakistan National Muslim League	Hukkah	141
77	Pakistan Peoples Party	Sword	270
78	Pakistan Peoples Party (Shaheed Bhutto)	Fist	105
79	Pakistan Peoples Party Parliamentarians	Arrow	12
80	Pakistan Peoples Party Workers	Victory sign	312
81	Pakistan Quami Yakjehti Party	Peacock	194
82	Pakistan Reh-e-Haq Party	Iron	147
83	Pakistan Siraiqi Party (T)	Spade	250
84	Pakistan Sunni Tehreek	Table lamp	272
85	Pakistan Supreme Democratic Party ♦♦	Diamond	82
86	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf	Bat	19
87	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf (Nazriati)	Batsman	20
88	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf-Gulalai	Racket	214
89	Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaniat	Scissors	234
90	Pakistan Welfare Party	Olympic torch	186
91	Pakistan Yaqeen Party	Alphabet p	9
92	Pasban Pakistan	Balloons	17
93	Peoples Movement of Pakistan	Rope	225
94	Peoples Muslim League (Pakistan)	Cup and saucer	76
95	Qaumi Watan Party	Chiragh (oil lamp)	58

Sr. No.	Political party	Symbol	Sr. No. in chart
96	Roshan Pakistan League	Tortoise	290
97	Saraikistan Democratic Party	Deer	80
98	Sindh United Party	Car	53
99	Sunni Ittehad Council	Horse	137
100	Sunni Tehreek	Clock	60
101	Tabdeeli Pasand Party (Pakistan)	Crown	75
102	Tehreek Labbaik Pakistan	Crane	71
103	Tehreek Tabdili Nizam Pakistan	Elephant	97
104	Tehreek-e-Difa-e-Pakistan	Bow	33
105	Tehreek-e-Labbaiq Islam	Cannon	51
106	Tehreek-e-Suba Hazara Pakistan	Truck	300
107	Tehreek Jawanan Pakistan	Laptop	163

4.2 Challenges

- i. Due to non-existence of a provision for a “cut-off date” in the law to apply for allocation of symbol in a general election by a political party, the Commission allocated election symbol to political parties even at later stage which created confusion for the Returning officers at the time of allotment of election symbols to contesting candidates;
- ii. It was observed that some political parties did not comply with the provisions of section 210 regarding the submission of their assets and liabilities by the due date, 29th August of a given year due to which their election symbols are withheld by the Commission. However, on fulfilment of the requisite criteria, the parties subsequently applied for the restoration of allocated symbols and the symbols are restored without any penalty;
- iii. Problems were faced with regard to priority lists of parties for reserved seats for women and non-Muslims in National/Provincial Assembly wherein the names of candidates were found different from the names mentioned in nomination papers and NIC. Similar problems in respect of party tickets were faced by Returning Officers for general seats;
- iv. Genuineness and authenticity of name and signatures of issuing authority of party tickets to contesting candidates was another issue faced by Returning Officers;

- v. In some cases, parties issued tickets in favour of more than one candidate in same constituency, which created confusion for RO to decide as to which one is to be accepted.

4.3 Recommendations

- i. Section 216 of the Elections Act, 2017 may be amended to provide therein a “cut-off date” for allocation of election symbols by the Commission in respect of a general election where after no symbol be allocated to any political party;
- ii. Necessary legislation may be made in the law providing for significant penalty on such political parties whose election symbols are withheld by the Commission for non-compliance of section 208 (intra party elections) and 210 (submission of assets and liabilities with the Commission);
- iii. Necessary amendment may be made in the Elections Act, 2017 to provide that a party ticket once submitted with the RO in favour of a candidate on general seats shall not be re-called/withdrawn or replaced.

5

APPOINTMENT AND TRAINING OF DROs, ROs, AROs, PRESIDING OFFICERS, APOs, POLLING OFFICERS AND OTHER ELECTION OFFICIALS

5.1 Appointment of DROs/ROs/AROs/Presiding Officers/APOs and POs

In order to conduct General Elections-2018, the Commission contemplated on various options for appointment of DROs and ROs as per provisions of sections 50 and 51 of the Elections Act, 2017 which provide that appointments will be made from amongst its own officers subject to availability; by selection from a list of officers provided by the Government or a Provincial Government; or from the subordinate judiciary in consultation with the Chief Justice of the concerned High Court.

5.2 Implementation

Initially, the Commission considered to appoint its own officers as DROs and ROs however, due to shortage of its own officers, the Commission decided to appoint the officers from subordinate judiciary. The Commission appointed DROs and ROs from Judicial Officers in consultation with the Hon'ble Chief Justices of the concerned high courts. Due to non-availability of Judicial Officers in some districts of Balochistan and erstwhile FATA, the Commission appointed DROs and ROs from the district administration. For smooth conduct of elections, two Assistant Returning Officers were appointed with each RO. For seats reserved for women in National Assembly and seats reserved for women and non-Muslims in Provincial Assemblies, the Commission appointed Provincial Election Commissioners as Returning Officers. For seats reserved for non-Muslims in National Assembly, Additional Director General (Elections) was appointed as RO. The number of officers appointed as DROs, ROs and AROs is as follows:

Sr. No.	Province/area	District/ agencies	DROs	ROs			AROs		
				NA	PA	Total	NA	PA	Total
1	Balochistan	34	34	16	51	67	88	89	177
2	KP	27	25	39	99	138	78	198	276
3	Punjab	36	36	141	297	438	282	594	876
4	Sindh	29	27	61	130	191	122	260	382
5	FATA	8	8	12	-	12	24	-	24
6	Islamabad	1	1	3	-	3	6	-	6
Total		135	131	272	577	849	600	1,141	1,741

In addition to the above, following polling personnel were appointed for General Elections-2018:

Province	Presiding Officers		Assistant Presiding Officers		Polling Officers	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Balochistan	3,406	1,140	13,816	10,852	6,908	5,426
KP/FATA	10,557	3,970	46,228	34,513	24,856	18,298
Punjab/ Islamabad	35,658	12,601	142,607	119,000	72,006	60,144
Sindh	14,139	3,619	60,348	53,750	30,174	26,875
Sub-total	63,760	21,330	262,999	218,115	133,944	110,743
Total	85,090		481,114		244,687	
5% reserved staff	4,255		24,056		12,234	
Grand total	89,345		505,170		256,921	

This has been the largest number of election officials (more than 0.85 million) ever engaged in the electoral history of the country.

5.3 Challenges

- i. The Returning Officers who were performing duties for the first time for conduct of General Elections-2018 faced certain difficulties in managing the electoral activities;
- ii. The DROs and ROs were performing election related duties in addition to their routine judicial work hence were overburdened;
- iii. Appointing separate ROs for NA and PA caused multifaceted problems such as finalization of polling stations, appointment of polling staff and dispatch/retrieval of election material etc. In addition, due to enhancement in number of ROs from 425 (appointed during General Elections-2013) to 849 appointed in General Elections-2018 resulted in significant increase in financial burden on public exchequer;
- iv. Coordination with such a large number of ROs during this election was itself a big challenge;
- v. Some ROs faced issues of coordination while dealing with their AROs because they were appointed from different departments having separate chain of command.

5.4 Recommendations

- i. Necessary amendment may be made in the Elections Act, 2017 to provide for appointment of one RO for one National Assembly and its corresponding Provincial Assembly constituencies as per past practice. In such case the number of AROs may be increased to facilitate the ROs;
- ii. Experienced officers may be appointed as ROs and they may be exempted from their office work w.e.f. issuance of election programme till consolidation of results for smooth completion of electoral activities.

5.5 Training of DROs/ROs/AROs/Presiding Officers/APOs/POs and Other Election Officials

Training is one of the essential components of any activity as it not only enhances capacity but also provides requisite technical skills for efficient disposal of required assignment. Keeping in view the gigantic activity of general elections which involves a large number of regular and temporary staff to perform important election related activities, the significance of training increases manifold.

Trainings have always remained a permanent feature in ECP but it achieved a renewed impetus after recommendations of General Election Inquiry Commission (GEIC) which was constituted after General Elections-2013. The GEIC in its report observed that there was a deficiency of Planning, Training, Coordination and Monitoring in General Elections-2013. In order to overcome the shortcomings pointed out by the GEIC, the Commission took a number of initiatives which, *inter alia*, included the establishment of a separate training wing headed by an Additional Secretary and revival of FEA. Under this wing the Commission conducted rigorous and extensive capacity building courses and specialized trainings for its officers and officials in anticipation of General Elections-2018. As the Commission appointed election officials from judiciary and other government departments (federal/provincial, autonomous bodies, corporations etc.) during General Elections-2018, therefore an elaborate training plan was developed by the training wing in collaboration with Provincial Election Commissioners and Development Partners in which more than 0.85 million election officials were trained so that proficient staff could be made available to conduct free fair and impartial elections in the country.

5.6 Implementation

To review and develop training modules for the General Elections-2018, a course review committee was constituted by the Commission comprising its own senior and experienced officers and development partner experts. The Committee reviewed and developed the following training materials:

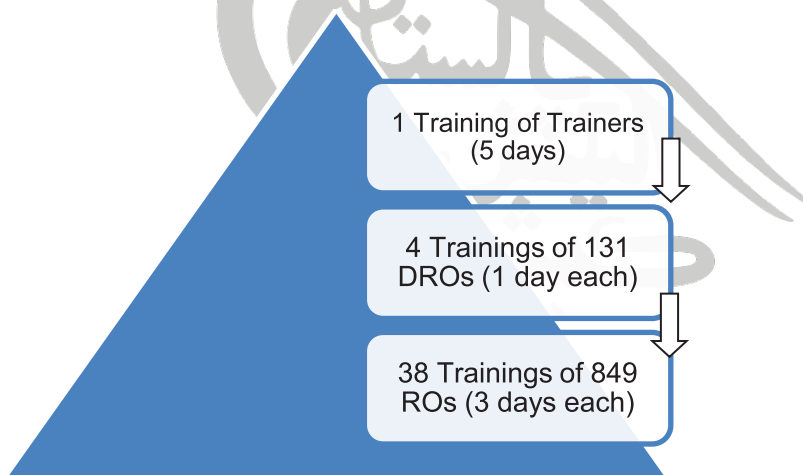
- i. Handbooks;
- ii. Manuals;
- iii. Leaflets; and
- iv. Charts.

The following training tools were applied for imparting trainings to the polling personnel:

- i. Presentation charts (due to multimedia and electricity issues);
- ii. Lectures;
- iii. Interactive sessions/group work;
- iv. Practical exercises
- v. Mock exercise demonstrating the whole polling process through videos/visual aids.

5.7 Training of DROs and ROs

A total of 131 DROs and 849 ROs were appointed throughout Pakistan to perform duties in each district/constituency. For training of DROs and ROs 42 (4 + 38) trainings were organized at divisional level to facilitate the participants. Keeping in view the supervisory role of DROs their training was of one day, whereas the trainings of ROs spanned over a period of three days. The methodology adopted for these trainings is explained by the pyramid below:



The curriculum for these trainings included information on election processes, i.e. receiving and scrutiny of nomination papers, appointment of polling staff, finalization of list of polling stations, bulk breaking and packing of election

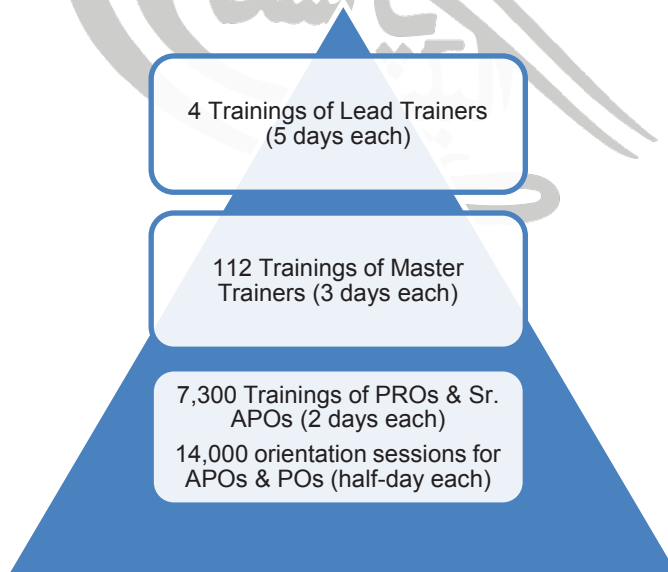
material, transportation plan, communication and security plan, result collection and its tabulation and transmission to the Commission.

5.8 Training of Polling Personnel

The trainings of Presiding Officers, APOs and Polling Officers were designed on cascade pattern. In the **first phase** Lead trainers from ECP were provided 5 days trainings at all the four Provincial Headquarters. The participants' presentations were assessed by officers of the Commission and trainings experts from development partners. Lead Trainers qualifying the set criteria imparted trainings to Master Trainers.

In second phase 2,644 master trainers, were trained by Lead Trainers at district level. These master trainers were meticulously chosen by the DECAs, keeping in view their qualification, previous election experience, integrity and gender considerations. A total of 112 Trainings of the Master Trainers were held for the purpose.

The **third and final phase** was the conduct of two days trainings of Presiding Officers and Sr. APOs and one-day orientation session for APOs and Polling Officers. The Master Trainers imparted trainings to almost 183,407 Presiding Officers and Sr. APOs, and 670,812 APOs and Polling Officers.



5.9 Training of Armed/Civil Armed Forces

Armed/civil armed forces were deputed at all polling stations to provide secure environment. In order to ensure that they are well aware of the Code of Conduct issued by the Commission, roles and responsibilities of all stake holders at the polling stations and well conversant with the polling process, a comprehensive training was arranged for them by the Commission. For this purpose, 28 trainings were held at 14 venues to train 1,400 master trainers of armed/civil armed forces who in turn further trained the security personnel deputed for election duty. This is for the first time that such Code of Conduct was issued and implemented.

A brief sketch of the trainings is given below:

Sr. No.	Type of training	Election officials trained			Duration	Timeline
		Male	Female	Total		
1	Training of Lead Trainers (ToLT)	79	5	84	5 days	2 weeks, 19 Feb–9 March, 2018
2	Training of Master Trainers (ToMT)	1,718	926	2,644	3 days	3 weeks, 2–22 April, 2018
3	Training of Trainers for DROs and ROs Trainings	26	0	26	5 days	1 week, 7–11 May, 2018
4	Delimitation Committee	37	1	38	3 days	3 days
5	Training of DROs	127	4	131	1 days	2 days, 15–16 May, 2018
6	Training of Returning Officers	836	13	849	3 days	2 weeks, 17–30 May, 2018
7	Orientation sessions	395,779	275,033	670,812	Half day	3 weeks, 23 April–15 May, 2018

8	Trainings of security personnel	1,400	-	1,400	3 days	1 week, 26 June–1 July, 2018
9	Training of Presiding Officers Sr. APOs	135,721	47,686	183,407	2 days	3 weeks, 25 June–15 July, 2018
Total		535,723	323,668	859,391		

The trainings were based on adult learning techniques which included interactive discussions, presentations and mock poll exercises. To minimize the chances of any flaws in the election process practical exercises on counting process using dummy ballot papers and filing of Form 45 (Result of the count) and Form 46 (Ballot Paper Account) were conducted time and again during the trainings. A comprehensive video encompassing all phases of election was displayed to the polling personnel during trainings. The handbooks and training videos were also uploaded on website of the Commission for easy access of all stakeholders.

Multiple stakeholders, including domestic observer groups such as FAFEN and PILDAT, acknowledged the significant improvement in election staff trainings compared to 2013. In PILDAT's observation report, General Elections-2018 scored highest since General Elections-2002 in the parameter assessing the training of polling staff and ROs, as evident in their performance on polling day. FAFEN in its report on General Elections-2018, noted a significant reduction in the prevalence of procedural irregularities between General Elections-2013 and General Elections-2018.

5.10 Challenges

- i. In most of the cities especially Lahore, Karachi and Faisalabad attendance of participants remained a major challenge that necessitated the conduct of extra training sessions other than the originally planned;
- ii. Lists of trainees provided by parent departments were not updated, and in some instances, contained names of deceased, transferred and retired officials. Summer vacations and hot weather conditions also contributed to low attendance;

- iii. Better training venues were selected from the available government resources, nonetheless, at some places (especially trainings of Presiding Officers, APOs and POs) the training halls/rooms were not adequate/spacious enough.

5.11 Recommendations

- i. Federal and Provincial governments need to be sensitized that concerned departments must ensure attendance of participants during training sessions whereby the district head of department may be made responsible for ensuring attendance of the deputed officials;
- ii. Provincial governments may take responsibility to provide appropriate training venues (with necessary facilities) for the trainings of election officials in government buildings, i.e. universities, colleges, schools or any other institute under the provincial government.



6

PREPARATION OF CONSTITUENCY-WISE LIST OF POLLING STATIONS AND LIST OF POLLING PERSONNEL

In pursuance of sections 53 and 59 of the Elections Act, 2017 the Commission prepares constituency-wise list of polling stations and polling personnel. Returning Officers are assigned duties to prepare these lists under the law. Draft lists of polling stations in respect of each constituency are provided by the Commission through DECs to the Returning Officers to carry out physical verification and publishing the preliminary list of polling stations for inviting objections/suggestions to be filed with the DROs. The DROs after hearing all the concerned decide objections relating to polling stations and consequently approve and publish final lists of polling stations in the official gazette at least thirty days before the poll day. The Commission makes efforts to reduce distance within the polling stations and the voters assigned to them preferably to one kilometre and also not more than 1200 voters are assigned to a polling station and not more than 300 voters to a polling booth.

6.1 Implementation

The Commission conducted GIS survey in order to take geo coordinates of proposed polling stations well before finalizing the draft list of polling stations by the DECs and handed over to the ROs for physical verification of the buildings of polling stations. The Commission issued timelines comprising various stages with regard to finalization of lists of polling stations with effect from 14th May, 2018 to 25th June, 2018. The Commission issued comprehensive guidelines for DROs and ROs for preparation of lists of polling stations and polling personnel. The DROs finalized the list of polling stations after hearing objections/representation on draft list of polling stations published by the ROs. The ROs established polling stations as approved and published by the DROs. The facility of 8300 SMS was provided to the voters to find details of their vote registration, name and location of polling stations etc. The data of all polling stations was also published on the official website of the Commission for information of general public. The statistical data of polling stations is given below:

Province	Polling station				Polling booths		
	Male	Female	Combined	Total	Male	Female	Total
Balochistan	1,329	1,140	2,077	4,546	6,908	5,426	12,334
KP/ FATA	4,610	3,970	5,947	14,527	24,856	18,298	43,154
Punjab/ Islamabad	13,317	12,601	22,341	48,259	72,006	60,144	132,150
Sindh	3,863	3,619	10,276	17,758	30,174	26,875	57,049
Grand Total	23,119	21,330	40,641	85,090	133,944	110,743	244,687

Out of these, 17,007 polling stations were declared highly sensitive and CCTV cameras were installed by provincial governments, the detail whereof is as under:

Province	Highly sensitive polling stations
Balochistan	1,768
KP/FATA	3,874
Punjab/Islamabad	5,487
Sindh	5,878
Grand total	17,007

The Commission after hectic efforts had conducted a physical survey of the prospective polling station buildings. Details of missing facilities along with photographs were shared with all the four Provinces. Issue was pursued vigorously with the provincial governments as a result of which some improvement was visible in the polling stations.

In order to facilitate the marginalized/disabled voters, the Commission, directed provincial governments to provide the missing basic facilities at the polling stations including construction of boundary walls and ramps. The Commission, as far as practicable retained previously established polling stations, keeping in view the distance as well as maximum number of voters, as given in the Elections Act, 2017 to facilitate the voters.

For conduct of proceedings at the polling stations on poll day, the Commission appointed polling personnel at each polling station. The polling personnel were identified by the Commission through DECs who established a data bank of all federal, provincial, autonomous, semi-autonomous bodies/institutions at district level. Comprehensive training/orientation was imparted to all polling personnel. Total number of polling personnel who performed their duties during General Elections-2018 is given below:

Province	Presiding Officers		APOs		Polling Officers	
	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Balochistan	3,406	1,140	13,816	10,852	6,908	5,426
KP/FATA	10,557	3,970	49,712	36,596	24,856	18,298
Punjab	35,658	12,601	144,012	120,288	72,006	60,144
Sindh	14,139	3,619	60,348	53,750	30,174	26,875
Grand total	63,760	21,330	267,888	221,486	133,944	110,743

6.2 Challenges

Section 59(3) of the Elections Act, 2017 envisages that as far as practicable not more than 1,200 voters be assigned to a polling station and not more than 300 voters to a polling booth and any deviation requires justification. This restriction resulted:

- i. in increase in the number of polling stations and polling booths;

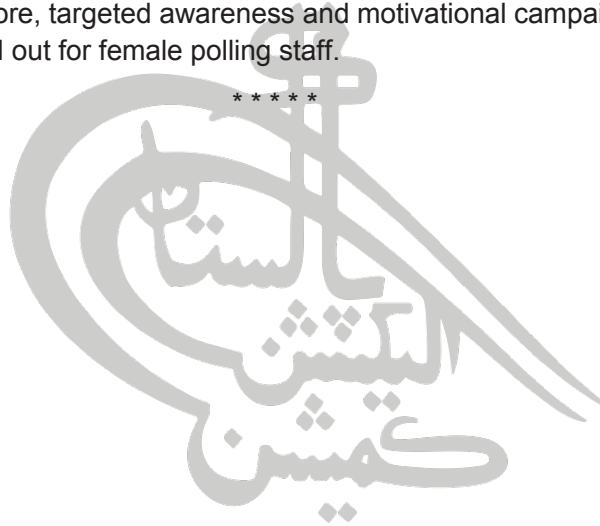
- ii. in increase in the requirement of polling personnel and election material;
- iii. that polling stations had to be established in the buildings of registered educational institutions;
- iv. that certain polling station had to be established on the first floor of a building and a number of improvised polling stations were established;
- v. in increase the requirement of security personnel;
- vi. in reasonable increase of financial resources;
- vii. Delayed provision of census data by PBS, in December, 2017 the Commission faced difficulties in adoption of new census block scheme for revision of electoral rolls as well as preparation of list of polling stations;
- viii. Provision of missing facilities at large in the polling stations is a challenging task for the Commission. In addition, provision of ramps in polling stations for persons with disability was the most difficult task to be accomplished by the provincial governments;
- ix. Establishment/improvisation of polling stations in some areas of Balochistan and erstwhile FATA was a challenging task for the Commission because of law and order situation in the areas;
- x. The list of officers/officials provided by different departments was not updated and incomplete despite the fact that the Commission had issued directions to provincial governments to provide updated lists of all employees;
- xi. Shortage of staff especially in big cities was a challenge faced during elections due to increase in number of polling stations and polling booths;
- xii. Shortage of female staff was another challenge faced during the General Elections-2018 due to their unwilling and reluctant attitude;
- xiii. Radius of 1 km between polling stations as prescribed in the Elections Act, 2017 created a huge burden on election administration, especially in far-flung areas where suitable buildings are not available and/or population is scattered; and
- xiv. There was a general lack of interest and unwillingness for performing election duty; due to heavy administrative responsibility, hardships and

the potential of political coercion against a meagre amount of financial benefit. This unwillingness typically results in a significant number of polling staff attempting to and/or succeeding in cancelling their election duties at last minute and skipping mandatory trainings.

6.3 Recommendations

- i. The Federal Government may issue directions to all provincial governments for provision of missing facilities in all public buildings to be used as polling station;
- ii. To encourage polling staff especially females, it may be ensured that they be assigned duties nearest to their residence with increased financial incentives;
- iii. Furthermore, targeted awareness and motivational campaign may also be carried out for female polling staff.

* * * * *



7

DETERMINATION AND PRINTING OF REQUISITE NUMBER OF BALLOT PAPERS AND DESIGNATION OF PRINTING PRESSES

In order to determine the quantity of ballot papers to be printed in respect of a constituency, section 71 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides following formula:

“71. Printing of ballot papers—(1) The Commission shall, pursuant to the finalization of the list of the polling stations, determine the constituency-wise requirement of ballot papers based on the formula that the number of ballot papers per polling station shall be rounded off to the next hundred.

Explanation—Rounding off to the next hundred means that if the total strength of voters at a polling station is 1201 to 1299 the requirement of ballot papers for that polling station would be 1300.”

Further, section 71(4) of the Act provides that the ballot papers shall be printed on water marked paper to safeguard from any kind of forgery or any misuse.

7.1 Implementation

For conduct of General Elections-2018, ballot papers were required to be printed on “watermark paper” as per section 71(4) of the Elections Act, 2017. After a series of meeting with concerned authorities it was decided that “Level-II security paper having watermark” will be used for printing of ballot papers. Procurement of water mark security paper was assigned to NSPC, Karachi (Ministry of Finance) being sole authorized manufacturer/proprietor.

Procurement of water-marked paper for ballot papers was a major challenge for the ECP in view of its import from the UK and France and its further transportation to the presses in Islamabad. Initially, the order was placed with a UK firm but, later, it was observed that it would not be able to handle the workload. By taking a prompt action, another firm in France was engaged but that too turned out to be problematic in view of labour protests in France. However, the Commission was able to overcome challenges by real time adjustments in its procurement strategy and special measures for ensuring timely delivery.

Keeping in view the issues faced during General Elections-2013, with regard to printing, numbering, binding and packing of ballot papers at PCP Press Islamabad, the Commission asked the Cabinet Division to upgrade the capacity of PCP Presses so that the ballot papers could be printed in time for the General Elections-2018.

The Commission issued a comprehensive plan on 22.06.2018 for printing of ballot papers by distributing job for printing of ballot papers to different presses as per detail given hereunder:

Sr. No.	Press	Quantity assigned for printing
1	National Security Printing Company, Karachi	100 million ballot papers
2	Printing Corporation of Pakistan Islamabad	30 million ballot papers
3	Pakistan Post Foundation, Islamabad	70 million ballot papers

Under rule 61(1) of the Election Rules, 2017 Returning Officers worked out/determined requirement of ballot papers for constituency assigned to them and after checking, the concerned DEC send the same to PECs, who with reference to rule 61(2) *ibid.* sought approval of the Commission. The quantity of ballot papers was approved by the Commission and got printed along with posters at the designated Presses.

The task for printing of Ballot Papers of Sindh, Balochistan Provinces and 5 Divisions of Punjab (Bahawalpur, Multan, Sahiwal, D.G. Khan and Sargodha) was entrusted to the NSPC, Karachi, whereas Rawalpindi, Gujranwala, Faisalabad and Lahore Divisions of Punjab and entire Khyber Pakhtunkhwa including erstwhile FATA was assigned to Pakistan Post Foundation, Islamabad and PCP Press Islamabad, respectively.

As soon as the ROs finalized the lists of contesting candidates, the Commission deputed dedicated teams of its officers to the designated presses to supervise the printing and dispatch of ballot papers to the concerned DROs.

7.2 Challenges

- i. Due to pending petitions, the ballot papers of more than 100 constituencies could not be printed in time which caused transportation

- problems for the Commission and delayed bulk breaking of ballot papers by the ROs;
- ii. Due to omission of “name box” from the nomination form (Form-A) appended with the Elections Act, 2017 problems were faced in printing of correct names on the ballot papers.

7.3 Recommendations

- i. Federal Government may direct the designated presses to upgrade their printing machinery for printing of ballot papers in future general elections;
- ii. Due to printing of large number of ballot papers, the time period for holding elections may be extended from 60 to 90 days as well as printing of non-sensitive materials may be allowed from local open market as the printing capacity of government presses is insufficient;
- iii. Section 71(4) of the Elections Act, 2017 may be appropriately amended to provide for “paper with security feature” instead of “watermark paper” so that the paper with security feature may be manufactured within the country;
- iv. Section 60 of the Elections Act, 2017 may be amended appropriately to omit the Nomination Form namely Form A appended to the Elections Act, 2017 enabling the Commission to make it part of the Election Rules, 2017;
- v. Necessary amendment in the Elections Act, 2017 may be made for providing name box in Form A for writing name of the candidate in Urdu as per NIC.

* * * * *

8

ESTABLISHMENT OF A TRANSPARENT RESULT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM FOR ELECTION RESULTS

Objective-13 of Goal-2 of the Commission's second five years Strategic Plan 2014–2018 emphasizes on strengthening polling station, results compilation, tabulation, consolidation and management system which was introduced in General Elections-2013. To achieve this goal, a special Committee was constituted to finalize scope and functionalities of RMS in terms of legal requirements viz-a-viz to simplify procedures and upgrade RMS for future elections. RMS is a system that automats processes of finalization of list of polling stations, list of contesting candidates and election result. This system was meant to be used by Returning Officers to finalize list of polling stations, candidates and to facilitate expeditious counting, tabulation, compilation, transmission, dissemination of election results in an accurate and speedy manner. Based on recommendations of the Committee, RMS was upgraded and modified by the Commission with assistance of development partners. It was pilot tested in 22 bye-elections during the years 2015 to 2018. Extensive training, orientation and demonstration sessions were held for all officers and staff of the Commission during November-December, 2016.

In the aftermath of General Elections-2013, 'Parliamentary Committee on Electoral Reforms' constituted by the Speaker National Assembly in July, 2014 comprising Members of the Senate and National Assembly unanimously recommended use of result management system for compiling results in the office of Returning Officer and inserted section 13 in the Elections Act, 2017 providing legal cover for use of result management system which is reproduced below:

“13. Establishment of Results Management System.—(1) Commission shall establish a transparent results management system for expeditious counting, tabulation, compilation, transmission, dissemination and publication of results in official Gazette and on website of Commission.”

Result Management System was installed in offices of Returning Officers nationwide to facilitate them for tabulation, consolidation and announcement

of Results in 849 constituencies. Following are the modules of RMS which were used in General Elections-2018:

- i. Polling station module includes preparation, updation, generation and printing of list of polling stations (Form-28) along with its geo-coordinates and details;
- ii. Contesting candidate module includes preparation, generation and printing of List of Contesting Candidates (Form-33);
- iii. Result compilation module includes:
 - a. Data Entry and Scanning of Result of the Count (Form-45)
 - b. Scanning of Ballot Paper Account (Form-46)
 - c. Generation of provisional consolidated statement of Result of the count (Form-47)
 - d. Data entry of Postal ballot paper (Form-37)
 - e. Generation of consolidated Statement of the Results of the Count (Form-48)
 - f. Generation of Final Consolidated Result (Form-49).
 - g. Transmission of Results (Form-47 and Form-49)
 - h. Generation of list of polling station in Urdu for 8300 SMS.

During implementation phase of RMS, following major tasks were performed:

- iv. Upgradation of software;
- v. Procurement of hardware;
- vi. Testing of RMS;
- vii. Training; and
- viii. Establishment of help desks and call centres.

To accomplish said task, approximately 2,500 DEOs were enlisted in a pool for operation of RMS in 849 RO Offices countrywide. Out of these, 1,700 trained DEOs were exclusively deployed at RO Offices for smooth functioning of RMS. A comprehensive hands-on training was imparted to DEOs using cascade training methodology. During this training, 22 lead trainers trained 66 Master Trainers who in turn imparted training to 2,500 DEOs. Besides, 150

Facilitators were also trained for practical demonstrations and troubleshooting of RMS.

The following latest equipment was deployed in the offices of 849 Returning Officers nationwide:

Sr. No.	Detail	Islamabad	Punjab	Sindh	KP	FATA	Balochistan	Total
LAPTOPS								
1	For ROs of NA Constituencies	3	141	61	39	12	16	272
2	For ROs of PA Constituencies	-	297	130	99	-	51	577
3	Backup as per number of NA constituencies (kept in concerned DEC/REC office)	3	141	61	39	12	16	272
4	PEC offices (for technical Support)	-	5	5	5	-	5	20
5	ECP Secretariat (For IT technical support)	-	-	-	-	-	-	8
6	Quality assurance firm	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
Total		6	584	257	182	24	88	1150
MULTI-FUNCTIONAL PRINTERS/SCANNERS, USB DRIVES, AND TONERS								
1	For ROs of NA constituencies	3	141	61	39	12	16	272
2	For ROs of PA constituencies	-	297	130	99	-	51	577
3	PEC offices (for IT technical Support and backup)	-	17	13	11	-	10	51
Total		3	455	204	149	12	77	900
MOBILE DEVICES								
1	For ROs of NA constituencies	3	-	-	-	12	-	15
2	For ROs of PA constituencies	-	297	130	99	-	51	577
Total		3	297	130	99	12	51	592

Helpdesks comprising 75 technical support persons were established at central as well as provincial level to facilitate Returning Officers for addressing trouble-shooting of RMS.

Scanned copies of Forms 45, 46, 47, 48 and 49 were uploaded on ECP's website for information of general public as required under section 13 read with section 95 of the Elections Act, 2017.

8.1 Challenges

- i. The arrangement, transportation and deployment of IT equipment along with backup internet connectivity at 849 RO offices within stipulated time period was a colossal task.
- ii. Poor connectivity issue was faced by some ROs due to weak signal of internet services in far-flung areas of Balochistan, FATA, interior Sindh and Punjab.
- iii. Deputation and training of approximately 2,200 IT personnel with the ROs was a challenge in a short period of time.
- iv. At some locations, despite training, capacity of DEOs was not up to the mark due to non-availability of skilled staff.

8.2 Recommendations

To solve the issue of poor connectivity, the PTA, PTCL and other service providers may be directed to overcome weak connectivity issues.









9

INTRODUCTION OF ANY NEW TECHNOLOGY

9.1 Geographical Information System

To facilitate stakeholders such as voters, contesting candidates, political parties, media and observers in locating buildings of polling stations and to bring more transparency in electoral process, “GIS Polling Scheme” an online mapping of polling stations with google maps was used for the first time in General Elections-2018. The Commission launched a pilot project in November 2015, with assistance of development partners to prepare a GIS Polling Scheme for local government elections in Islamabad Capital Territory. After success of pilot project, the GIS Polling Scheme was used in multiple bye-elections and implemented in the entire country during General Elections-2018.

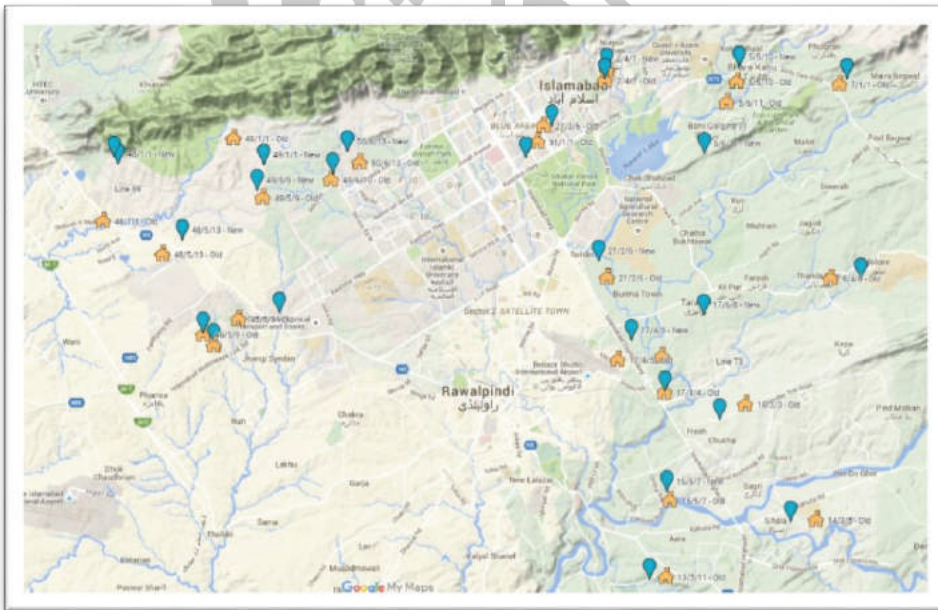
The Commission trained its staff on capturing of data for geotagging of polling stations to prepare GIS polling scheme on following steps:

1.	2.	3.	4.	5.	6.	7.	8.
							
Visit polling station	Take photo	Connect to PC	Link pictures with station detail	Location is automatic	DEC/RO approval	Upload to website	Done!

Detail of staff engaged and polling stations geotagged in respect of national and provincial assembly constituencies is as under:

Province	Total districts	Total of NA constituencies	Total PA constituencies	No. of polling stations	No. of DEOs/staff of DEC/REC
Balochistan	34	16	51	4,546	68
KP and Tribal Areas	34	51	99	14,527	68
Punjab	36	141	297	47,473	72
Sindh	29	61	130	17,758	58
Islamabad	1	3	0	786	2
Total	134	272	577	85,090	268

The Polling Scheme Management Software (PSMS) was installed in offices of DECs/ROs. On capturing coordinates and photos of polling stations, the same were uploaded to a central server for publishing on ECP's website for information of general public to search polling stations by name or by location, using interactive Google maps. The application also has the functionality to give directions from any given location to selected polling station which remained available till polling day.



A map generated by the polling scheme management software

GIS technology was used for the first time in General Elections-2018 which facilitated general public to see their polling stations from ECP's website or mobile App along with photographs of its building reflecting satisfactory results. The matrix chart of the GIS table showed accurate number of male/female voters with name of polling station and its photograph on Google maps. Use of GIS polling scheme nullified allegations of ghost polling stations resulting in upholding of international standards of transparency.

The Commission held meetings with all the Chief Secretaries to sensitize provincial governments for seeking logistic and administrative assistance for acquiring geo-tags of the polling stations.

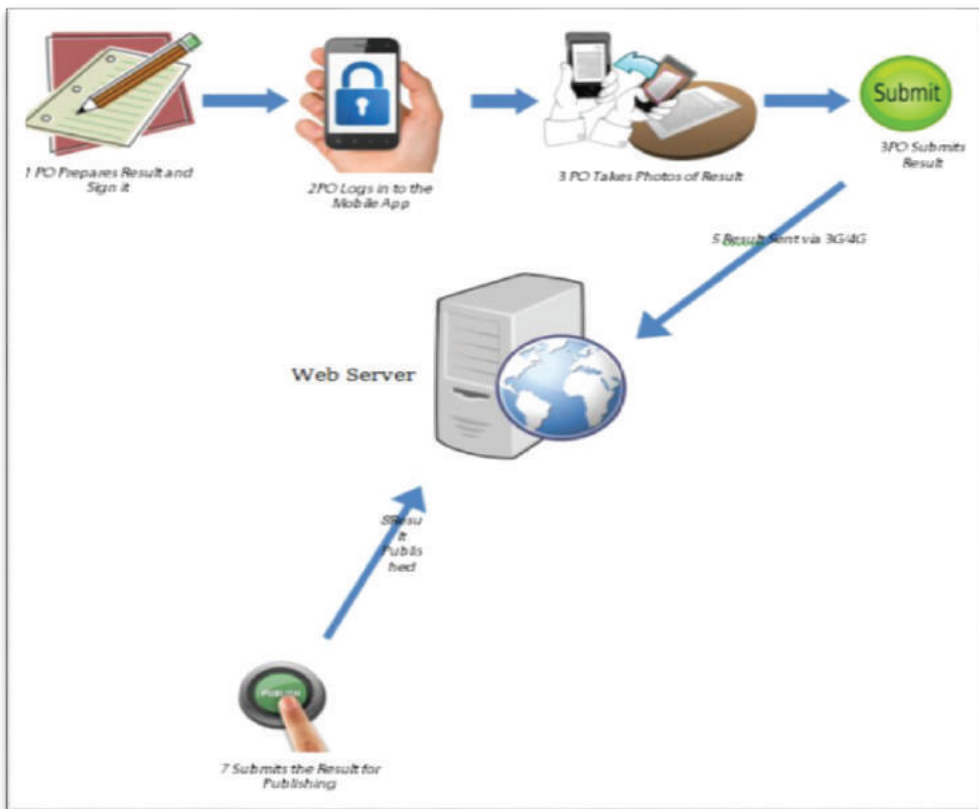
9.1.1 Challenges

The physical verification of polling station in far-flung areas, particularly in Balochistan and FATA, was challenging and involved long travels.

9.1.2 Recommendations

The Provincial Government may be advised to provide geo-tags of government buildings/proposed polling stations situated in far-flung areas for establishing said buildings as polling stations in future elections.

9.2 Results Transmission System



Section 13(2) of the Elections Act, 2017 provides as under:

(2) "The Presiding Officer shall immediately take snapshot of the Result of the Count and, as soon as connectivity is available and it is practicable, electronically send it to the Commission and the Returning Officer before sending the original documents under section 90."

RTS project was outsourced to NADRA on turn-key basis for effective implementation of aforesaid provisions of the Act. Accordingly, NADRA developed a software namely Results Transmission System (RTS) for swift transmission of Form-45 (Result of the Count) electronically by the Presiding Officers from polling stations to the Returning Officers as well as ECP Secretariat, during General Elections-2018. NADRA developed RTS App for both mobile platforms (Android and Apple) and implemented it after providing

certificates to the Commission with regard to “load and performance testing” and “fitness of the software”.

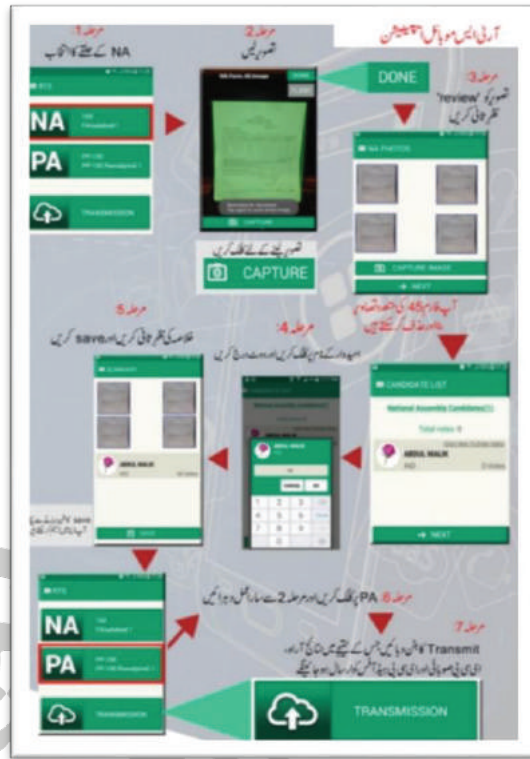
For effective implementation of RTS in General Elections-2018, training to 168,979 Presiding Officers along with Sr. APOs was imparted for use of RTS on poll day for transmission of result (Form-45) from polling station to RO office as well as ECP Secretariat. About 98% mobile devices of Presiding Officers or Sr. APOs were registered for transmission of Form 45 through RTS.

An orientation session was arranged for DROs as well as ROs on practical functions of RTS. The following steps were involved in RTS for results processing:

- i. Presiding Officer after taking snapshot of Form-45 was required to send the same to RO as well as to the Commission through RTS application installed in his mobile; and
- ii. After ensuring that snapshot is clear, Presiding Officer clicked on “Send” button where after snapshot were sent to RO as well as ECP portal from where connectivity was available.

Due to certain technical and operational issues, all Presiding Officers were not able to send electronic copy of Form-45 through RTS due to reasons such as:

- i. Absence of or poor connectivity;
- ii. Lack of smart phones with presiding officers; and
- iii. Hardware/software application glitch at run time.



As per law, the Presiding Officer is required to take snapshot of the Result of the Count (Form-45) and as soon as connectivity is available and it is practicable, electronically send it to the Commission and the Returning Officer. It was observed that on poll day 25th July, 2018 at mid-night some Presiding Officers remained unable to send data due to aforesaid reasons.

9.2.1 Challenges

- i. RTS was 3G/4G supported software which required availability of Internet connectivity (3G/4G) at 100% polling stations. Since 3G/4G density was available only at 60% of the area of the country as per PTA, implementation of RTS at all the polling stations was a great challenge for the Commission;
- ii. Arrangement of mobile devices for use in RTS across the country at more than 85,000 polling station was a great challenge which involved huge public money;
- iii. Training on RTS to presiding officers and Sr. APOs, being non-tech savvy due to generation gap, was also a challenge.

9.2.2 Recommendations

- i. Introduction of new technology should not be mandatory under the law until it becomes fool-proof and practicable in the field;
- ii. Keeping in view the on-ground challenges, sub-section (2) and sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Elections Act, 2017 may be omitted.

9.3 8300 SMS Service

In order to facilitate 106 million voters, the Commission launched a short message service (SMS) throughout the country which helped voters to find their serial number, electoral area, details of polling station and constituency number by sending their NIC number on 8300 short code. In order to protect privacy of a voter, name, parentage and home address were not shown in the SMS. This SMS service is available to voters around the clock. The format of the SMS received on voters' mobile phones is given as under:

61101-xxxxxxx-5

سلسلہ نمبر: 397

بلاک کوڈ: 501245852

پولنگ اسٹیشن: اسلام آباد ماڈل سکول جی سکس ون، اسلام آباد

Pakistan has now become world's biggest voters' verification provider with rich voter density of population over 106 million voters for 140 million mobile users. It is all indigenous effort with assistance of NADRA and use of technology by the Commission. Similarly, more than 55 million hits were recorded by voters to check their vote registration details via 8300 SMS from January to July 2018.

9.3.1 Challenges

- iii. Speedy and uninterrupted service of SMS 8300 on poll day was a great challenge;
- iv. Non-availability or poor mobile signals in some far-flung areas;
- v. Updation of voters' data along with polling station in 8300 SMS database at some locations.

9.3.2 Recommendations

The Federal Government may issue directions to PTA, NTC, PTCL and other service providers to improve connectivity and ensure uninterrupted/accurate signals, especially in far-flung areas.

9.4 Online Scrutiny Facilitation Cell

Scrutiny of nomination papers of prospective candidates had always been a challenge for Returning Officers. This process needs to be carried out in an efficient manner within stipulated period. Keeping in view the essence of the process, the Commission established a "Scrutiny Facilitation Cell" at ECP Secretariat Islamabad to facilitate Returning Officers during scrutiny of nomination papers to provide them necessary information/documents supplied

by different organizations such as NADRA, State Bank of Pakistan (SBP), Federal Board of Revenue (FBR), National Accountability Bureau (NAB), Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) and PTCL etc. For the purpose, an “Online Scrutiny Management System (OSMS)” was deployed to collect and disseminate data/information of 19,998 candidates from Returning Officers to aforesaid organizations and vice versa by using following SOPs:

- i. On receipt of nomination papers, each RO prepared a list containing names and NIC numbers of nominated candidates and sent the same to Scrutiny Facilitation Cell at ECP Secretariat Islamabad through email as well as fax;
- ii. The Scrutiny Facilitation Cell then forwarded the said information through OSMS to NADRA;
- iii. NADRA verified particulars and further added particulars of dependents (i.e. spouse, children, parents) and updated same information in OSMS;
- iv. Thereafter, information received from NADRA was shared with SBP, NAB, FIA, FBR, etc. who evaluated particulars and issued duly signed certificates in respect of each candidate by uploading the same on OSMS; and
- v. On receipt of response from said organizations in respect of each candidate, through OSMS, the same was sent back to respective ROs by Scrutiny Facilitation Cell through email for using the said data by RO during scrutiny of nomination papers.

9.4.1 Challenges

- i. Time constraints, i.e. only eight days to scrutinize the nomination papers of candidates;
- ii. Real time coordination with all stakeholders;
- iii. Poor response of different organizations with regard to their provided information during scrutiny and appeals before the Appellate Tribunals.

9.4.2 Recommendations

- i. In order to smoothly run the Scrutiny Facilitation Cell, close real-time coordination with all concerned organizations, i.e. ROs, ECP, FBR, NAB, SBP, NADRA, FIA needs to be strengthened;

- ii. Organizations providing information may be bound to pursue/defend their cases before the Returning officers during scrutiny of nomination papers and Appellate Tribunals during appeals.



10

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ELECTION OBSERVERS

Under section 238 of the Elections Act, 2017 the Commission, at its own motion or upon an application made in this behalf, may allow any domestic or international election observation organization to observe the process of conduct of election, having an access to polling station, counting of votes and consolidation of result. Besides, no person shall be allowed to observe the process of conduct of election, if he;

- i. is not accredited as an observer by the Commission or its authorized officer;
- ii. is affiliated with any political party;
- iii. fails to provide his full particulars and documents, including photographs, which may be required by the Commission;
- iv. has been involved in activities prejudicial to the peace and tranquillity of the people of a constituency;
- v. fails to provide an authorization from the organization of which he is a member;
- vi. has not obtained security clearance from the Government.



International observers in Islamabad on polling day

10.1 Implementation

The Commission, after consultation with 'Domestic Observers' Organization and civil society organizations, formulated SOPs for domestic observers. Similarly, the Commission formulated SOPs for foreign/International observer missions in consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Interior.

International observers from the Commonwealth, European Union and other organizations consisting of 414 members observed the elections. Special briefings were arranged for International groups. Foreign missions in Islamabad also observed the elections. The details in respect of international observers and accreditation cards issued to them is as under:

Sr. No.	Description	Cards
1	Commonwealth	24
2	Australian High Commission	15
3	Japanese Embassy	26
4	European Union	69
5	US Embassy	26
6	UNDP	4
7	International media	250
Total		414

The details in respect of domestic observers and national media and the accreditation cards issued to them is as under:

Sr. No.	Name	Cards
1	FAFAN	19,683
2	DAI-Tabeer	17
3	SSDO organization	20
4	HRCP	20
5	Society for Research	10
6	National Democratic Institute	60
7	National media	10,000
Total		29, 810

10.2 Achievements

Domestic observers reported improvements in accreditation procedures in General Elections-2018 as compared to General Elections-2013, particularly in terms of more efficient issuance of accreditation cards at district and provincial level. The domestic observers had comprehensive observation checklists, Handbook and information kit which was found helpful during observation process. Observers were generally allowed to enter in the polling stations without difficulty. Through accreditation card, the observers could observe the polling process at polling stations. The attitude of polling officials with observer was generally cooperative. For the first time, the Commission also issued accreditation cards to persons with disabilities, women and transgender persons.

10.3 Challenges

- i. The procedure to get accreditation cards was still found to be lengthy by both media and observers and often cards were issued late. Some received accreditation cards two days before the poll day and were not valid for multiple constituencies. The delay in issuance of accreditation cards to media persons was partially because of the time taken by PID and District Information Officer in processing and forwarding the applications for accreditation cards;
- ii. The Commission had to put in extra efforts to promptly issue accreditation cards to members of the EU Observation Mission, who had applied quite close to election day in view of the challenges that they faced in obtaining visas and security clearance;
- iii. Field consultations highlighted that media persons did not receive any training or guidelines from their respective organizations about the ECP's Code of Conduct for media or requirements of fair and responsible reporting in relation to elections. This resulted in varied understanding and reporting based on insufficient understanding of election procedures.

10.4 Recommendations

- i. Federal Government may direct PID to swiftly process the cases of issuance of Accreditation Cards and forward the same to the

Commission, PEC offices and field information offices at least 20 days before the poll. Necessary coordination at divisional and district level may also be ensured so that the said cards could be issued by the Commission, PEC, DROs well before the poll day;

- ii. The Government may take timely decision regarding international observation missions for general elections so that the Commission has sufficient time to process and issue accreditation cards;
- iii. Federal government may direct all media houses and CSOs, seeking to observe elections, to impart training on relevant codes of conduct, election laws and responsible reporting to all the persons engaged for reporting or election observation.

* * * * *



11

APPOINTMENT OF THE APPELLATE AND ELECTION TRIBUNAL

Under section 63 of the Elections Act, 2017 the Commission appoints Appellate Tribunals in consultation with the Chief Justices of High Courts to decide appeals within stipulated timeframe against the decision of Returning Officers rejecting/accepting nomination papers of contesting candidates. Appellate Tribunals summarily decide appeals within the time as notified by the Commission. In case the Appellate Tribunal is not able to decide the appeal within the time fixed by the Commission, the appeal shall abate and decision of the Returning Officer shall be final.

Appellate Tribunals have powers according to which if any information is available with them that might lead to disqualification of the candidate, he may call upon candidate to show cause why his nomination papers may not be rejected on the basis of documentary proof. If the Appellate Tribunal is satisfied that the candidate is actually a defaulter or has had a loan written off or suffers from any disqualification, it may reject his nomination papers.

In addition, under Article 225 of the Constitution, no election to a House or a Provincial Assembly shall be called in question except by an election petition presented to such Tribunal and in such manner as may be determined by Act of Majlis-e-Shoora (Parliament). Section 140 of the Elections Act, 2017 empowers the Commission to appoint election tribunals from amongst the sitting or retired Judges of High Courts in consultation with the Chief Justices of respective High Courts.

11.1 Implementation

The Commission notified election programme on 31.05.2018 for the conduct of General Elections-2018. Nomination papers were filed before the Returning Officers concerned by contesting candidates of National Assembly and Provincial Assembly constituencies. Under section 63(1) of the Elections Act, 2017 the Commission in consultation with the Chief Justices of concerned High Courts, appointed and notified the following Appellate Tribunals for hearing and deciding appeals against the decisions of the Returning Officers:

Sr. No.	Province/area	No. of appellate tribunals	Locations	Jurisdiction
1	Balochistan	2	Quetta	All General Seats and Reserved Seats for Women and Minorities in NA/PA
2	KP, including FATA	6	Principal Seat (Peshawar), Abbottabad, Mingora/Swat, Bannu and D.I. Khan	All General Seats and Reserved Seats for Women and Minorities in NA/PA
3	Punjab	8	Lahore, Multan, Bahawalpur and Rawalpindi	All General Seats and Reserved Seats for Women and Minorities in NA/PA
4	Sindh	4	Karachi and Sukkur	All General Seats and Reserved Seats for Women and Minorities in NA/PA
5	Federal Capital	1	Islamabad	All General Seats in NA
Total		21		

Further, details of appeals filed against the acceptance and rejection of nomination papers of the candidates for general seats as well as reserved seats for women/non-Muslims in NA/PA is narrated below:

Sr. No.	Province/area	Total no. of appeals	Total no. of appeals accepted	Total no. of appeals rejected
1	Balochistan	254	166	88
2	KP, including FATA	97	41	56
3	Punjab, including Islamabad	539	90	449
4	Sindh	337	81	256

The aggrieved persons challenged the decisions of appellate tribunals through writ petitions under Article 199 of the Constitution as below:

Sr. No.	Province/area	Petitions filed against acceptance	Petition filed against rejection	Total
1	Balochistan	36	40	76
2	KP, including FATA	0	0	0
3	Punjab, including Islamabad	55	134	189
4	Sindh	3	138	141
Total		94	312	406

Further, the Commission appointed 21 Election Tribunals consisting of sitting Judges of the High Courts in Provinces and Federal Capital in accordance with the provisions of section 140 of the Elections Act, 2017 as per detail given below:

Sr. No.	Province/area	No. of election tribunals	Locations
1	Balochistan	3	Quetta
2	KP, including FATA	5	Peshawar, Abbottabad, Mingora/Swat, Bannu and D.I. Khan
3	Punjab	8	Lahore, Multan, Bahawalpur and Rawalpindi
4	Sindh	4	Karachi and Sukkur
5	Federal Capital	1	Islamabad
Total		21	

The detail of the election petitions filed with the election tribunals is as below:

Sr. No.	Province/area	National Assembly	Provincial Assembly	Total
1	Balochistan	13	42	55
2	KP, including FATA	8	25	33
3	Punjab including Federal Capital	47	90	137
4	Sindh	22	52	74
Total		90	209	299

11.2 Challenges

- i. During proceedings before the Courts, difficulties were faced by the representatives of the Commission to obtain copies of writ petitions seeking relief against rejection or acceptance of nomination papers in order to avoid reprinting of ballot papers;
- ii. As per law, aggrieved persons are required to file appeals before the Appellate Tribunals against the decisions of Returning Officers but in some cases, they prefer to file writ petitions which caused delay in printing of ballot papers;
- iii. Under section 148(5), the Election Tribunal is supposed to dispose of election petitions within 120 days from the date of filing but it has been observed that most of the cases are not finalized in given time frame;
- iv. Section 143 of the Elections Act, 2017 provides for the parties of election petition, for impleading any other person as respondent against whom any specific allegations of contravention of the Act, has been made. Taking advantage of this provision of law, petitioner often impleads ECP, PEC, REC, DEC, RO and polling staff as respondents in their election petitions without any legal justification;
- v. The experience of Election Tribunals from retired judges had been a matter full of challenges which was faced in all Provinces in the past. Such challenges, inter alia, involved various issues, i.e. the counsels of the petitioner sought unjustified adjournments due to comparatively less administrative control resultantly the petitions were not decided within stipulated period. Furthermore, administrative issues such as burden on

national exchequer, i.e. appointment of complementary staff, accommodation of office of the Tribunal, official vehicles, security issues, extremely prolonged disposal of petitions defying the very purpose of the tribunals to dispose of the petitions within 120 days.

11.3 Recommendations

- i. An amendment in law may be made to provide that the petitioner, seeking relief against decision of RO/Appellate Tribunals, shall submit a copy of the memorandum of appeal to the Commission before filing the same in the Court so that on receipt of the said copy of appeal, the printing of ballot papers of that particular constituency could be pended till the decision. The petitioner may also be bound to provide copy of the judgment to the Commission;
- ii. In order to ensure timely printing of ballot papers and their transportation to the concerned Returning Officer, the following new sub-section may be inserted in section 63 of the Elections Act, 2017:

“(5) After the disposal of appeals by the Appellate Tribunal or abatement of appeal, a writ petition or constitutional petition, if any, filed against the order of the Appellate Tribunal, shall be decided not later than ten days before the poll day.”;
- iii. The Election Tribunals may be appointed from sitting Judges of the High Courts only and the words appearing in section 140(2)(a) of the Elections Act, 2017 namely **“or has been”** may be omitted;
- iv. Section 143(2) of the Elections Act, 2017 which states *“The Election Tribunal may direct the petitioner to join any other person as respondent against whom any specific allegation of contravention of this Act has been made.”* may be omitted to avoid unnecessary issuance of notices, litigation against ECP officers/officials and DROs/ROs/AROs or any other person appointed for conduct of election.

* * * * *

12 SECURITY MEASURES

The Commission made impeccable arrangements to enhance sense of security amongst voters, contesting candidates and political parties ahead of General Elections-2018 in an effort to ensure that election process goes smooth and unhindered. Keeping in view security situation before General Elections-2013, terrorism and other incidents of political and electoral violence, the Commission considered maintenance of security during election process as one of its top priority, which is also a prerequisite for ensuring a level-playing field for political parties and contestants as well as voters. The Commission issued clear instructions to Caretaker Governments at Federal and Provincial levels to provide fool-proof security to the stakeholders during election process and in this regard, civil and armed forces were deployed to maintain law and order.

Similar arrangements were made by the Commission for bye-elections that followed the General Elections-2013 due to an unpredictable security situation in various constituencies of Pakistan at that time on requests of DROs, ROs, political parties and contesting candidates considering conventional security arrangements as insufficient. The Commission in terms of Articles 220 and 245 of the Constitution requested Ministries of Defence and Interior for deployment of Armed/Civil Armed Forces inside and outside all polling stations to avoid any untoward incident during poll in all 111 bye-elections held after General Elections-2013. These special security measures by the Commission greatly contributed towards conduct of elections in a free, fair and peaceful manner.

Prior to General Elections-2018, a total of 13 incidents of political and electoral violence were reported in media till March 2018, whereas another 46 such incidents were reported between April and May 2018. While a surge in violent attacks and threats targeting political parties, party leaders, candidates and election officials before poll-day in July 2018 caused short-term effects on election campaign in some parts of the country. The Commission took timely steps for provision of secure environment to the contesting candidates during election campaign.

The bomb attack in a campaign event in district Mastung in Balochistan killed 149 people including a prominent contesting candidate of Balochistan Awami Party, and injured over 200 people. Similarly, a suicide attack at a corner meeting in Peshawar claimed lives of 12 citizens including contesting candidate of Awami National Party and injured another 65. Yet another suicide

attack took place just three days before poll day, in *Tehsil* Kulachi of district D. I. Khan, which resulted in death of a contesting candidate of Pakistan Tehreek-e-Insaf.

The incidents of violence reinforced the belief for engagement of Armed/Civil Armed Forces to provide a fool-proof and secure environment for conduct of General Elections-2018 in a free and fair manner on July 25, 2018.

12.1 Implementation

For the first time, NACTA shared with the Commission threats to political leaders and candidates. Almost 64 such threat alerts to the leaders of mainstream political parties in the Provinces were received in the Commission. The Commission issued instructions to the caretaker Governments, at Federal and Provincial levels, to provide security to the leaders of political parties during election process.

In view of volatile security situation in the country punctuated by several incidents of violence during four months before elections, recommendations came during consultative meeting with political parties held on 31st May 2018 and security meeting held under the chairmanship of the caretaker Prime Minister, the Commission in exercise of its powers under Articles 218(3), 220 and 245 of the Constitution directed Ministries of Defence and Interior for deployment of Armed Forces/Civil Armed Forces for the conduct of General Elections-2018. Armed Forces/Civil Armed Forces were asked to provide assistance to the Commission by providing security during printing of ballot papers, transportation of ballot papers, poll day and post poll activities in the following manner:

- i. Pakistan Army was deployed at Printing Corporation of Pakistan, Islamabad, National Security Printing Company, Karachi and Pakistan Post Foundation, Islamabad from June 27, 2018 to July 25, 2018 to make fool-proof security arrangements during the printing/stacking/storage of Ballot Papers;
- ii. Armed Forces/Civil Armed Forces provided security during transportation of Ballot Papers (including Postal Ballot) and other Election Materials from printing press to respective districts/polling stations and back to district treasuries/ECP's strong rooms as per Communication Plan issued by the competent authority;

- iii. Armed Forces/Civil Armed Forces were deployed inside and outside all the polling stations for provision of secure environment.

Approximately 371,000 Armed/Civil Armed Forces personnel were deployed inside and outside polling stations to maintain law and order for provision of secure environment as per Code of Conduct for security officials issued by the Commission in line with provisions of section 233(2) of the Elections Act, 2017.

12.2 Installation of CCTV Cameras

The provisions of sub-section 12 of section 59 of the Elections Act, 2017 provide that if DRO while finalizing list of polling stations declare a polling station as highly sensitive, the Commission may, in addition to appropriate security measures as may be taken, install or direct any Government to install a surveillance camera in each polling booth of such polling station to record poll proceedings, counting of votes process and preparation of result by Presiding Officer.

Keeping in view the above provision, the Commission in a meeting held on 22nd December, 2017 in ECP Secretariat, Islamabad under chairmanship of the Chief Election Commissioner issued directions to all Provincial Governments including administration of ICT and erstwhile FATA to make necessary arrangements for security including installation of surveillance cameras at the highly sensitive polling stations.

For the first time, in pursuance of section 230(1)(f) read with section 5(4) of the Elections Act, 2017 the Commission also approved summaries regarding reshuffling of Chief Secretaries, Inspector Generals of Police and holders of key administrative posts as proposed by the Caretaker Governments.

12.3 Achievements

In overall terms, almost all stakeholders appreciated security arrangements in General Elections-2018. In 17,007 highly sensitive polling stations, CCTV cameras were installed to monitor and record the proceedings. For the first time, the Commission imparted trainings to master trainers of Armed/Civil Armed Forces who, in turn, trained other security officials deployed on the polling stations. In many cases, the ECP officers in districts briefed police officers about the election process and the required security arrangements. As a result, polling staff felt more secure and were relatively more willing to perform election duty. FAFEN reported that not a single instance of polling

station captured was observed as compared to 2013. Moreover, there was a marked reduction in complaints of voting fraud at polling stations. Due to precise security arrangements, the polling process was orderly on the polling day, and the incidence of violence was minimal, except one roadside incident that took place in Quetta.

12.4 Challenges

- i. Peaceful conduct of General Elections-2018 in a volatile security environment was itself a great challenge;
- ii. Security personnel were deputed during distribution of election material by ROs and to escort its transportation back to the ROs office for result consolidation. Field consultations informed that, in some cases, movement in security escort also delayed transportation of results and staff back to the RO office, especially where, due to law and order situation, election materials and staff from multiple polling stations were moved in a convoy to the RO office;
- iii. Field review also highlighted that there was a shortage of female security officials in the law enforcement agencies and, as a result, it was a challenge to arrange sufficient number of female security personnel for female polling stations.

12.5 Recommendations

- i. Trainings in future may be further improved to ensure that security officials clearly understand the requirements of election duty, security plan and the ECP's codes of conduct, especially in terms of coordination with election and polling officials, importance of consistent application of Laws/Rules during polling process and facilitation to voters, media persons, polling agents and observers;
- ii. As a long-term measure, the federal and provincial governments may take steps to increase women representation in the law enforcement agencies to minimize deficiency of female security personnel;
- iii. Police personnel engaged for security duty in connection with elections may also be granted honoraria.

MONITORING MECHANISM TO REPORT PROGRESS REGARDING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ACTION PLAN

Monitoring mechanism was devised and implemented at ECP Secretariat to ensure that all the decisions of the Commission are implemented in letter and spirit. A National Coordination Committee, headed by the Chief Election Commissioner was constituted in 2015 to monitor activities relating to elections. Similarly, a Planning Committee was also constituted in August, 2015 which was headed by the Secretary, ECP with a mandate to plan and review progress on the implementation of various decisions of the Commission.

The Planning Committee held 15 meetings before the conduct of General Elections-2018 and prepared a roadmap regarding, delimitation of constituencies, establishment of Commission's own storages for preservation of sensitive polling material, upgradation of Commission's office buildings, improvement of logistic facilities, collection of data bank in respect of polling staff, enhancing the capacity of Federal Election Academy, improvement and procurement of quality election material, introduction of new technologies, constitution of Gender and Disability Electoral Working Group, celebration of National Voters' Day etc.

A decision for creation of a Monitoring wing was also taken and the Director General, Administration was assigned the additional responsibility as DG Monitoring wing. The RECs were also assigned duties of various activities of monitoring within their ambit. After enactment of the Elections Act, 2017 section 234 made monitoring of election campaign mandatory. Similarly, under section 14 of the Elections Act, 2017, the ECP prepared an Action Plan regarding various activities for the conduct of general elections and one of the key aspects was to have in place a proper monitoring mechanism to observe the implementation of activities mentioned in the Action Plan at all stages. Despite many challenges, including time constraints and unprecedented workload, most of the activities mentioned in the action plan were completed within the timelines for the General Elections-2018.

13.1 Implementation

13.1.1 Delimitation of constituencies

The Commission constituted a Delimitation Committee for each Province and a separate Committee for ICT and erstwhile FATA. Each Committee was entrusted to prepare the draft proposals of Delimitation constituencies (NA/PA) at ECP Secretariat, Islamabad within stipulated time. The purpose of housing Delimitation Committees at ECP Secretariat was to keep an eye on their functioning and to provide such conducive environment so that no external influence, if any, could obstruct their independent working. The Commission, Secretary ECP, as well as Additional Secretary (Administration) conducted frequent visits to monitor all five delimitation committees to ensure that delimitation exercise is completed within given timeframe under the law, rules and according to the instructions issued by the Commission.

13.1.2 Revision of electoral rolls

The Commission had some serious constraints with regard to availability of sufficient time for revision and reconciliation of electoral rolls with new census block scheme as a result of adoption of provisional census data, however, despite all odds, the process of revision of electoral rolls was monitored. Special teams were deputed to make surprise visits of Display Centres established across the country. In addition, the Provincial Monitoring Teams and the concerned RECs/DECs also constantly monitored various activities of revision of electoral rolls.

13.1.3 Enlistment of political parties

The Commission took steps to inform political parties about the requirements for re-enlistment under the Elections Act, 2017 and then completed the re-enlistment process after meeting the statutory and procedural requirements.

13.1.4 Allocation of symbols

As provided in the Elections Act, 2017 the Commission invited applications, through a press release/public notice, for allocation of election symbols to eligible political parties for the conduct of General Elections-2018. All

applications were examined and decided upon in accordance with law and the established procedure.

13.1.5 Appointment and training of DROs, ROs, AROs, Presiding Officers, APOs, POs and other election officials

After the appointment of DROs and ROs it was imperative that these officers must go through the process of comprehensive training. Trainings were held in the Holy month of Ramzan. For the purpose of gauging quality of trainings, monitoring teams were deployed. This exercise provided deterrence against absenteeism and provided feedback to the training wing for improvement. The Monitoring wing monitored the training of DROs, ROs, AROs Presiding Officers, APOs, Polling Officers, and other Election Officials.

13.1.6 Preparation of constituency-wise list of polling stations and list of polling personnel

The Commission issued instructions to PECs/RECs/DECs to monitor/ensure that polling stations are established as per law, rules and the instructions of the Commission. Moreover, a survey was carried out by the Commission to assess the availability of missing facilities at the polling station, and the requirement of such facilities was highlighted to the district administration and provincial governments.

13.1.7 Determination and printing of requisite number of ballot papers and designation of printing presses

Procurement of water-marked paper for ballot papers was a major challenge for the ECP in view of its import from the UK and France and the transportation issues. Initially, the order was placed with a UK firm but, later, it transpired that it would not be able to handle the workload. The Commission had to promptly engage another firm in France but this too turned out to be problematic in view of labour protests. However, the Commission was able to overcome challenges through ongoing monitoring and real time adjustments in its procurement strategy and special measures for ensuring timely delivery.

Prior to the announcement of election programme, the Commission assessed the capacity of government owned presses and asked them to enhance their capacity, as required, so as to deliver the upcoming task of printing of ballot

papers within highly challenging timelines. Later on, it was also ensured that printing orders are distributed by taking into account the capacity of presses that were to be engaged.

The quantity of ballot papers was determined by the Returning Officers concerned and monitored by the Commission through its PEC offices in order to ensure that only the required number of ballot papers are printed in a timely manner, as required by law.

The Secretary ECP personally visited the designated printing presses to monitor the capacity of printing of the presses. During printing of the ballot papers, a team of senior officers was available to monitor the smooth and proper printing and delivery of ballot papers from printing presses to the DROs concerned.

13.1.8 Establishment of a transparent result management system for election results

Mock exercises of RMS were conducted about a week prior to election in order to monitor its operation. Moreover, RMS Help Desks were set up at provincial level at PEC offices in each Province. The IT wing at ECP Secretariat as well as PEC offices level was also closely monitoring the progress of RMS.

13.1.9 Introduction of any new technology

The Commission tested and introduced various new technologies including GIS polling scheme, Online Scrutiny System, RMS and RTS, Online Monitoring System, Pilot Project for overseas Pakistanis using Internet Voting, Pilot Projects on EVM and BVM.

13.1.10 Arrangements for elections observers

The Commission while allowing the international and national election observers to observe the pre-election, election day and post-election activities by issuing them accreditation cards along with guidelines and Code of Conduct for observers. The implementation on said Code of Conduct was monitored by the Commission.

13.1.11 Appointment of the Appellate and Election Tribunals

The Appellate and Election Tribunals were appointed by the Commission under the law.

13.1.12 Security measures

Different meetings were held with the security institutions at Central, Provincial and District level. The Code of Conduct was issued by the Commission for security personnel. CCTV cameras were installed at 17,007 highly sensitive polling stations across the country.

13.2 Challenges

- i. In view of various tasks, including the Senate elections, revision of electoral rolls and the 24th Constitutional Amendment, which required the Commission to first carry out delimitation of constituencies on the basis of provisional census data, it was challenging for the Commission to issue Action Plan. However, despite all these, the Commission complied with section 14 of the Elections Act, 2017;
- ii. Time constraints and sudden engagement in multi-dimensional assignments squeezed space for the Commission to make planning, devise tools, engage professional support for training and monitoring, prepare booklets and other related training materials for monitoring. Despite all these hardships and challenges monitoring of implementation of action plan was made to the maximum possible level.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS

- i. The Commission's efforts to hold the mammoth task of delimiting national and provincial constituencies within the short timeframe of four months, despite several challenges, was widely appreciated by all stakeholders. There was general consensus that the revision of electoral boundaries was a task of national significance achieved by the ECP in record time when there were apprehensions about the likelihood of delay in elections given the short timeframe available.
- ii. It is also worth noting that, for the first time, detailed rules were promulgated on the topic of delimitation of constituencies and included in the Election Rules, 2017. The Commission, while formulating the delimitation proposal, followed the principles as laid down in section 20 of the Act in letter and spirit to the extent practicable.
- iii. The Committee structure was implemented for the first time in electoral history with tight security protocols put in place for safe and secure conduct of the delimitation exercise at the Secretariat in Islamabad. The Committees took into account various measures and steps as laid down in rule 9 of the Election Rules, 2017. To achieve consistency, the Commission employed a unique rule which required delimitation to start from the northern end of a district and then take a clockwise direction in a zigzag manner to include as many units as were required to make a constituency population equal to the set average. The purpose of this provision was to ensure that gerrymandering is avoided in boundary delimitation.
- iv. The measures adopted by Commission for preparation of transparent and error free Electoral Rolls were evident during the General Elections-2018 wherein no such considerable complaint or objections on the accuracy of Electoral Rolls were observed. In the survey conducted by PILDAT, on Perception on Pre-poll Fairness, perception of credibility of Electoral Rolls, has received the highest score of 67.3%. Likewise, in the Assessment of the Quality of General Elections-2018, the post-election assessment carried out by PILDAT, the Accuracy, Completion & Updation of Electoral Rolls has also received highest score of 80%, which is the testimony of the transparency and maturity of the electoral rolls process.

- v. FAFEN noted that the significant increase in the number of first-time voters, 8.5 million in General Elections-2018, is primarily due to an unprecedented increase in voter registration between the two general elections. The increase in the number of registered voters between the 2013 and 2018 elections (19.77 million) was more than the increase in the 10 years between the 2002 and 2013 elections (14.27 million).
- vi. Political parties and contesting candidates during process of Post-Election Review appreciated voter registration process, display centres and linked NADRA registration. NADRA had dedicated Friday exclusively to facilitate women at the NADRA offices for issuance of NICs. Attitude of ECP officials was also appreciated who encouraged and guided general public to visit ECP office.
- vii. The Commission adopted proactive approach to inform political parties about new legal requirements for enlistment, and facilitated them in meeting those requirements, so as to ensure that the risk of certain parties being excluded from the upcoming general election may be minimized.
- viii. Domestic observers reported improvements in accreditation procedures in General Elections-2018 as compared to General Elections-2013, particularly in terms of more efficient issuance of accreditation cards at district and provincial level. The domestic observers had comprehensive observation checklists, Handbook and information kit which was found helpful during observation process. Observers were generally allowed to enter in the polling stations without difficulty. Through accreditation card, the observers could observe the polling process at polling stations. The attitude of polling officials with observer was generally cooperative. For the first time, Election Commission of Pakistan issued accreditation cards to persons with disabilities, women and transgender persons.
- ix. In overall terms, almost all stakeholders appreciated security arrangements in General Elections-2018. In 17,007 highly sensitive polling stations, CCTV cameras were installed to monitor and record the proceedings. For the first time, the Commission imparted trainings to master trainers of armed forces and civil armed forces who, in turn, trained other security officials deployed on the polling stations. In many cases, the ECP officers in districts briefed police officers about the election process and the required security arrangements. As a result,

polling staff felt more secure and were relatively more willing to perform election duty. FAFEN reported that not a single instance of polling station captured was observed as compared to 2013. Moreover, there was a marked reduction in complaints of voting fraud at polling stations. Due to precise security arrangements, the polling process was orderly on the polling day, and the incidence of violence was minimal, except one roadside incident that took place in Quetta.



COMPENDIUM OF RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Delimitation of Constituencies

- i. The following amendment in section 20(3) of the Elections Act, 2017 is proposed:

“As far as possible, variation in population of constituencies of an Assembly or a local government, within the district, shall not ordinarily exceed ten percent.”;
- ii. Article 51 of the Constitution may be amended to provide that fresh delimitation be carried out not later than one year before the completion of the term of the respective assembly;
- iii. PBS while taking census exercise in future may:
 - a. prepare maps of urban areas/big cities showing detail of localities on the maps to avoid over-lapping and missing of areas for delimitation exercise;
 - b. prepare digitized maps of urban as well as rural areas showing details of legends and localities;
 - c. ensure to check and correct the record of Census Charges Circles and Blocks before official publication of the Census and in future complete and accurate record may be provided to the Commission for delimitation of constituencies.
- iv. The provincial government may:
 - a. provide maps strictly in accordance with the notified administrative units i.e. *Tehsils, Qanungo Halqas*/Supervisory *Tapedar* Circles, *Patwar* Circles/*Tapedar* Circles, etc. for delimitation exercise;
 - b. provide maps to the Commission according to scale prescribed for the purpose to avoid inconvenience during delimitation of constituencies.
- v. The Federal Government may take immediate steps for official publication of Census Reports so that the delimitation of Local Government Elections could be carried out timely.

2. Revision of Electoral Rolls

- i. The Elections Act, 2017 may be amended to bind PBS to amend census block code scheme in consultation with the Commission so that

- accurate delimitation and electoral rolls could be provided to general public, candidates and political parties;
- ii. Federal Government may issue direction to NADRA for increasing registration of women, persons with disabilities, minorities and transgender persons by removing existing challenges and barriers;
 - iii. Directions may also be issued to concerned authorities to simplify processes for PWDs to obtain disability certificate and issuance of NIC with disability logo by NADRA;
 - iv. Standard Operating Procedures for registration of deaths in the offices of union councils/cantonment boards/local government institutions may be revised by the provincial governments and relevant departments for removal of complexities in timely registration of deaths;
 - v. In relation to the provision of electoral rolls to candidates and their agents in soft copy with photographs of the voters, sections 41(2) and 79(3) may be omitted from the Elections Act, 2017 to preserve the sanctity and privacy of voters;
 - vi. Federal Government may direct NADRA to obtain accurate address of the applicant while filling of form for registration/issuance of NIC.

3. Enlistment of Political Parties

- i. Section 210 of the Elections Act, 2017 may be amended to provide the opening of an exclusive account in the name of enlisted political party and all transactions should be made from the same account and no party fund will be deposited in the account of an individual in any case;
- ii. Section 202 of the Elections Act, 2017 may be amended to provide that the list of 2,000 members provided by political parties for enlistment shall consist of 20 percent women members.

4. Allocation of Symbols

- i. Section 216 of the Elections Act, 2017 may be amended to provide therein a “cut-off date” for allocation of election symbols by the Commission in respect of a general election where after no symbol be allocated to any political party;
- ii. Necessary legislation may be made in the law providing for significant penalty on such political parties whose election symbols are withheld by the Commission for non-compliance of section 208 (intra party elections) and 210 (submission of assets and liabilities with the Commission);

- iii. Necessary amendment may be made in the Elections Act, 2017 to provide that a party ticket once submitted with the RO in favour of a candidate on general seats shall not be re-called/withdrawn or replaced.

5. Appointment and Training of DROs, ROs, AROs, Presiding Officers, APOs, Polling Officers and Other Election Officials

a. Appointment

- i. Necessary amendment may be made in the Elections Act, 2017 to provide for appointment of one RO for one National Assembly and its corresponding Provincial Assembly constituencies as per past practice. In such case the number of AROs may be increased to facilitate the ROs;
- ii. Experienced officers may be appointed as ROs and they may be exempted from their office work w.e.f issuance of election programme till consolidation of results for smooth completion of electoral activities.

b. Training

- i. Federal and Provincial governments need to be sensitized that concerned departments must ensure attendance of participants during training sessions whereby the district head of department may be made responsible for ensuring attendance of the deputed officials;
- ii. Provincial governments may take responsibility to provide appropriate training venues (with necessary facilities) for the trainings of election officials in government buildings i.e. universities, colleges, schools or any other institute under the provincial government.

6. Preparation of Constituency-wise List of Polling Stations and List of Polling Personnel

- i. The Federal Government may issue directions to all provincial governments for provision of missing facilities in all public buildings to be used as polling station;
- ii. To encourage polling staff especially females, it may be ensured that they be assigned duties nearest to their residence with increased financial incentives;
- iii. Furthermore, targeted awareness and motivational campaign may also be carried out for female polling staff.

7. Determination and Printing of Requisite Number of Ballot Papers and Designation of Printing Presses

- i. Federal Government may direct the designated presses to upgrade their printing machinery for printing of ballot papers in future general elections;
- ii. Due to printing of large number of ballot papers, the time period for holding elections may be extended from 60 to 90 days as well as printing of non-sensitive materials may be allowed from local open market as the printing capacity of government presses is insufficient;
- iii. Section 71(4) of the Elections Act 2017 may be appropriately amended to provide for “paper with security feature” instead of “watermark paper” so that the paper with security feature may be manufactured within the country;
- iv. Section 60 of the Elections Act, 2017 may be amended appropriately to omit the Nomination Form namely Form A appended to the Elections Act, 2017 enabling the Commission to make it part of the Election Rules, 2017;
- v. Necessary amendment in the Elections Act, 2017 may be made for providing name box in Form A for writing name of the candidate in Urdu as per NIC.

8. Establishment of a Transparent Result Management System for Election Results

To solve the issue of poor connectivity, the PTA, PTCL and other service providers may be directed to overcome weak connectivity issues.

9. Introduction of Any New Technology

a. Geographical Information System

The Provincial Government may be advised to provide geo-tags of government buildings/proposed polling stations situated in far-flung areas for establishing said buildings as polling stations in future elections.

b. Results Transmission System

- i. Introduction of new technology should not be mandatory under the law until it becomes fool proof and practicable in the field;

- ii. Keeping in view the on-ground challenges, sub-section (2) and sub-section (3) of section 13 of the Elections Act, 2017 may be omitted.

c. 8300 SMS service

- i. The Federal Government may issue directions to PTA, NTC, PTCL and other service providers to improve connectivity and ensure uninterrupted/accurate signals especially in far-flung areas.

d. Online Scrutiny Facilitation Cell

- i. In order to smoothly run the Scrutiny Facilitation Cell, close real-time coordination with all concerned organizations i.e. ROs, ECP, FBR, NAB, SBP, NADRA, FIA needs to be strengthened;
- ii. Organizations providing information may be bound to pursue/defend their cases before the Returning officers during scrutiny of nomination papers and Appellate Tribunals during appeals.

10. Arrangements for Election Observers

- i. Federal Government may direct PID to swiftly process the cases of issuance of Accreditation Cards and forward the same to the Commission, PEC offices and field information offices at least 20 days before the poll. Necessary coordination at divisional and district level may also be ensured so that the said cards could be issued by the Commission, PEC, DROs well before the poll day;
- ii. The Government may take timely decision regarding international observation missions for general elections so that the Commission has sufficient time to process and issue accreditation cards;
- iii. Federal government may direct all media houses and CSOs, seeking to observe elections, to impart training on relevant codes of conduct, election laws and responsible reporting to all the persons engaged for reporting or election observation.

11. Appointment of the Appellate and Election Tribunal

- i. An amendment in law may be made to provide that the petitioner, seeking relief against decision of RO/Appellate Tribunals, shall submit a copy of the memorandum of appeal to the Commission before filing the same in the Court so that on receipt of the said copy of appeal, the printing of ballot papers of that particular constituency could be pended

- till the decision. The petitioner may also be bound to provide copy of the judgment to the Commission;
- ii. In order to ensure timely printing of ballot papers and their transportation to the concerned Returning Officer, the following new sub-section may be inserted in section 63 of the Elections Act, 2017:

“(5) After the disposal of appeals by the Appellate Tribunal or abatement of appeal, a writ petition or constitutional petition, if any, filed against the order of the Appellate Tribunal, shall be decided not later than ten days before the poll day.”;
 - iii. The Election Tribunals may be appointed from sitting Judges of the High Courts only and the words appearing in section 140(2)(a) of the Elections Act, 2017 namely **“or has been”** may be omitted;
 - iv. Section 143(2) of the Elections Act, 2017 which states *“The Election Tribunal may direct the petitioner to join any other person as respondent against whom any specific allegation of contravention of this Act has been made.”* may be omitted to avoid unnecessary issuance of notices, litigation against ECP officers/officials and DROs/ROs/AROs or any other person appointed for conduct of election.

12. Security Measures

- i. Trainings in future may be further improved to ensure that security officials clearly understand the requirements of election duty, security plan and the ECP’s codes of conduct, especially in terms of coordination with election and polling officials, importance of consistent application of Laws/Rules during polling process and facilitation to voters, media persons, polling agents and observers;
- ii. As a long-term measure, the federal and provincial governments may take steps to increase women representation in the law enforcement agencies to minimize deficiency of female security personnel;
- iii. Police personnel engaged for security duty in connection with elections may also be granted honoraria.

13. Organizational Strengthening of the Commission

- i. In view of workload relating to local government elections entrusted to the Commission through 18th Constitutional amendment and feedback received during Post-Election Review, there is a dire need to further enhance the capacity of the Commission in terms of human resources by creating/upgrading posts of various categories at secretariat, provincial and field level;
- ii. The Commission should have its own office buildings at Provincial, regional and district levels together with residential accommodations for officers and officials.

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کتابتِ حیات

